

Angola confirms key town fallen to UNITA

LUANDA (R) — The Angolan government confirmed on Wednesday it had lost the city of Mbanza Congo, gateway to the oil town of Soyo, to UNITA rebels, but vowed to contain the rebel group's advance. "[Defence Minister] General Pedro Sebastião... confirmed in the plenary assembly [of the Angolan parliament] that in effect Mbanza Congo had been taken by UNITA," a spokesman for Sebastião said in a statement. "Nevertheless the FAA [Angolan Armed Forces] are regrouping with more men, more sophisticated technical equipment, more arms to contain the UNITA advance," the statement said. UNITA Secretary General Paulo Lukumba Gato told Reuters in a telephone interview earlier on Wednesday that Mbanza Congo was taken earlier on Tuesday night after a fierce battle.

Missing Indian student shown on TV

GALORE (AFP) — A state-run television channel has identified Praveen Narayanan as the missing person

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Eight kidnapped in Yemen

SANA (AP) — Yemeni tribesmen have kidnapped three Germans, government and tribal officials said Wednesday.

Five Yemenis were abducted along with the Germans on Tuesday evening, the german foreign ministry said.

The hostages have been taken to Al Jawf in northern Yemen, where a British couple and a Dutch family of four kidnapped on Jan. 17 are being held, the tribal official said.

The kidnappers' demands were not immediately known. A government official confirmed the kidnapping, but refused to provide details. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

In Bonn, the German foreign ministry said tribesmen had kidnapped eight people, including three Germans.

Ministry spokesman Martin Erdmann said the hostages comprised a 30-year-old German aid worker, her Yemeni husband and their three Yemeni children, the aid worker's brother and his wife, both German nationals, and the group's Yemeni driver.

The aid worker worked for

the government's aid programme, German Development Services. Her brother and sister-in-law were visiting Yemen.

Erdmann said Germany had asked the Yemeni government to do everything possible to ensure the safety of the hostages.

The case appeared to be a "classic" Yemeni kidnapping involving members of a tribe that hoped to pressure the government into providing local services, Erdmann said. It did not appear to be the work of Islamist militants, Erdmann said.

Tribesmen, who control large parts of Yemen, frequently kidnap foreigners to gain economic concessions from their government. Hostages generally are well-treated and released unharmed.

The German ambassador to Yemen, Helga von Strachwitz, who was in Germany at the time of the abduction, was returning to Yemen Wednesday, Erdmann added.

Meanwhile, Yemen arrested six fugitives, including three Britons, suspected of ties to six other men who went on trial in Britain.

Aden on Wednesday on charges of plotting murder and sabotage, the interior ministry said.

"Security forces in Shabwa governorate today arrested the remaining members of the extremist terrorist gang who have remained at large," the official Yemeni news agency SABA said, quoting an interior ministry official.

It said the group, including two members of an Islamist group that kidnapped 16 Western tourists last month, surrendered to security forces on Wednesday, one day after being surrounded in the Shabwa Mountains in eastern Yemen.

Among those arrested was Mohammad Mustafa Kamel, son of Abu Hanifa Al Masri, an Afghan war veteran living in Britain whose extradition is being sought by Yemen so that he can stand trial for alleged ties to Islamist groups operating in the Arab state.

SABA said two of the others arrested were British passport holders while a fourth was an Algerian travelling on a French passport. It said he had been living in Britain.

The agency said the remaining two were an Algerian national and a Yemeni citizen who had taken part in the killing of four Western tourists among the 16 seized last month.

The six men were taken for questioning and would eventually be put on trial, the agency said.

In London, a foreign office spokesman said: "We are aware of the reports. We have asked our ambassador in Sana to make investigations as a matter of urgency."

Earlier on Wednesday, five Britons and a man carrying a French passport were charged with planning to form an armed gang to carry out murder, sabotage and bombings threatening Yemen's security.

The men, who appeared in court in Aden yelling they had been tortured, pleaded not guilty. They were arrested on Dec. 24.

The prosecutor also charged that the six were linked to Masri, head of the London-based Supporters of Sharia (Islamic law) group, as well as to the leader of the kidnappers of the 16 Western tourists.



TURKISH JOURNALIST FREED FROM PRISON: Turkish journalist Ragip Duran (R), who served a seven-and-a-half month imprisonment term in Saray prison, receives a bouquet of flowers from friends as he is freed from the jail in the western Turkish town on Wednesday. Turkish protest singer Suavi Saygan (L) was one of those who welcomed the journalist outside the prison. Duran had begun serving a 10-month sentence in the prison last June, under strict anti-terrorism laws following an interview he conducted with Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan (Reuters photo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Albright in S. Arabia for Iraq talks

RIYADH (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright flew in Wednesday for talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on Washington's policy of "containment and regime change" in neighbouring Iraq. Albright, who arrived from Cairo, was also expected to meet Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz and her Saudi counterpart Prince Saud Al Faisal. U.S. officials said, "We are going to consult the Saudi authorities about our policy toward Iraq of containment and regime change," said a spokesman for Albright. In Cairo, Albright expressed "regret" for a deadly U.S. missile strike near the southern Iraqi city of Basra, but said the United States would continue to enforce the "no-fly" zones in Iraq.

Britain sees no new campaign against Iraq

DOHA (AFP) — Junior British Foreign Minister Derek Fatchett said here Wednesday that London and Washington were not planning a repeat of their four days of air-strikes against Iraq in December. But he stressed that U.S. and British warplanes would continue to patrol "no-fly" zones over northern and southern Iraq. The patrols have triggered almost daily clashes between U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Arafat prepared to meet Arens

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said on Wednesday that he was prepared to meet Israel's new defence minister, Moshe Arens, whose hawkish views have raised concerns of a further deterioration in Israeli-Palestinian ties. "Arens is minister of defence in the Israeli government and, if he wants to meet me, I am ready," Arafat said in response to journalists' questions at his office in Gaza City. Arafat insisted that even if Netanyahu is re-elected, peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians will carry on.

Algerian rebels kill seven

ALGIERS (R) — Islamist rebels slashed the throats of seven people after setting up a fake roadblock near Algiers, a local newspaper reported on Wednesday. The rebels stopped a van in which the seven were travelling and dragged them to the roadside before cutting their throats, said L'Authentique newspaper. The killings took place on Tuesday in the Boudra region, 60 km east of Algiers. The newspaper did not say whether the victims were civilians or government soldiers on leave.

Few Palestinians think press is independent — poll

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Few Palestinians think the Palestinian press in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is independent, according to an opinion poll published on Wednesday.

The survey by the Palestinian-run Jerusalem Media and Communications Centre indicated that only eight per cent of the 1,192 Palestinians polled believed they had an independent press.

About 33 per cent said they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the state of press freedom in Palestinian-controlled areas, while 19 per cent responded that they were satisfied.

Another 33 per cent said they were undecided on the issue and

seven per cent declined to answer.

Palestinian Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Nabil Amr — who owns one of three main local newspapers in the West Bank and Gaza — denied that press freedoms were restricted.

"This poll is not true. There is a wide margin of press freedoms in Palestinian areas that is not matched in any other Arab state. Any person can write what he likes and there is no censorship on the press," he told Reuters.

Palestinian journalists and human rights groups have frequently complained of interference by the Palestinian National Authority.

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Supreme Court weighed on Wednesday whether Israel can hold foreign nationals without trial as "bargaining chips" in negotiations over missing soldiers.

A nine-judge panel began hearing an appeal by lawyers for 10 Lebanese prisoners in Israeli jails to overturn an earlier ruling by a three-judge panel allowing foreigners to be held for prisoner swaps if vital state interests are at stake.

No decision was expected on Wednesday in the closed door hearing.

Human rights groups have condemned the previous rul-

ing as legitimising state-sponsored hostage-taking and have urged the court to release the men immediately.

"We are talking about people, a number of whom were 16 years old when they were abducted to Israel," Zvi Rish, a lawyer for the prisoners, told Israel Radio, noting that some of the detainees had been imprisoned for the last 10 years.

"Authorities do not say the detainees committed any crime and admit they are being held only for bargaining purposes," said Tomer Feffer, spokesman for Israel's leading rights group B'tselem.

"A man should pay a price

for his actions alone. No one is accusing them of anything," Feffer told Reuters.

Amnesty International called Israel's continued detention of the men a "flagrant violation of international law."

"This is the last chance for the Supreme Court to reject its decision, unprecedented in the world, that it is legal for the state to engage in hostage-taking," Amnesty said in a statement.

Most of the Lebanese abducted by Israel are members of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah movement, which is fighting to oust Israeli troops from an occupa-

tion zone in south Lebanon.

Israel, which has controlled parts of south Lebanon since 1978, set up its self-declared security zone in the area in 1985 to protect its northern borders from potential guerrilla attacks.

In addition to the 10 Lebanese included in the appeal, B'tselem said 11 other Lebanese were being held without trial as "administrative detainees."

Prominent among them are Hezbollah cleric Sheikh Arafat Karim Obeid, abducted from his home by Israeli commandos in 1989, and Islamist faction leader Mustafa Duran seized from his house in 1994.

Officials show support for new heir

(Continued from page 1)

"What we don't know is what his political beliefs are," the official said, adding however that the Crown Prince had contacts with Israelis both during his studies in the United States and during his military career.

Experts and former diplomats voiced specific concerns. "Israel has every reason to be concerned about a possible destabilisation of the

Haslemite monarchy in Jordan, although this seems very unlikely at this point," said Shimon Sharmin, a professor of political science who served as Israel's first ambassador to Jordan from 1995 to 1997.

If King Hussein succumbs to cancer, Sharmin said, it could modify relations between East Bank Jordanians and those of Palestinian origin.

Looking at what he sees as potentially concurrent and dangerous developments in the

region, Jordan expert Joseph Nevo from Haifa University cited the U.S.-Iraqi crisis, the changes in Jordan and the political uncertainty in Israel as its political parties prepare for the May national elections.

"What would happen with Amman if an extremist government comes out of the elections and deals a final, fatal blow to the peace process with the Palestinians, which is of vital importance for Jordan?" Nevo asked.

Palestinians say law violates peace principles

(Continued from page 1)

The law does not apply to lands in Gaza and the West Bank, which have not been annexed.

Israel has already transferred about 30 per cent of these areas to partial or full Palestinian control as part of peace agreements.

All the lands were occupied in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel illegally annexed the Golan and Arab east Jerusalem in 1981.

Netanyahu has threatened to annex the lands Israel still controls if the Palestinians make good on a promise to declare statehood on May 4.

In recent weeks, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has indicated he would forego the declaration in order not to upset the already-fragile peace process.

But on Wednesday, the Palestinian parliament speaker insisted that May 4, a deadline for an agreement

set out in the 1993 Oslo accords, still held.

"We will not hesitate to declare that state because it is the consequence of that [peace] agreement," Ahmad Qureia said during a visit to Helsinki, Finland.

"It doesn't mean that the declaration of state is a declaration of war... it is a declaration of peace," Qureia said.

But on Wednesday, the Palestinian parliament speaker insisted that May 4, a deadline for an agreement

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

Thursday Programmes

16:10 ... Cartoon — Superman

16:30 Science Fiction — Space Precinct

17:00 Doc. — The Science Show

17:30 ... French Programme

18:15 ... Sparks

19:00 ... Le Journal

19:15 ... French Programme

19:30 ... News Headlines

19:35 ... The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air

20:00 ... Cinema, Cinema

20:30 ... Star Trek

21:10 ... Doc. — Full Circle

22:00 ... News in English

22:30 ... Drama — Millennium

23:10 Feature Film — "The Face on the Milk Carton"

23:59 ... End of TX.

Friday Programmes

16:10 ... Animated Classics

16:30 ... Treasure Hunt

17:00 ... The Simpsons

18:15 ... French Programme

19:00 ... Le Journal

19:15 ... French Programme

19:30 ... News Headlines

19:35 ... The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air

20:00 ... Cinema, Cinema

20:30 ... Star Trek

21:10 ... Doc. — Full Circle

22:00 ... News in English

22:30 ... Drama — Millennium

23:10 Feature Film — "The Face on the Milk Carton"

23:59 ... End of TX.

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church

Swieftieh, Tel. 5920740

Assemblies of God Church Tel.

4632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590

Terra Santa Church Tel. 4623366

Anglican Church Tel.

4624834/6248111

St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox

Church Tel. 4771751

Amman International Church

Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical

Congregation Tel. 5683404

The Evangelical Local Church

in Amman Tel. 581295

Church of Jesus Christ of Lat-

er Days Tel. 4654

UJ to offer new faculty: Rehabilitation sciences on offer next semester

By Susan Resheq

AMMAN — The state-run University of Jordan said it has an initial plan to offer bachelors degrees in a new College of Rehabilitation Sciences at the university and to offer three postgraduate degrees in women's studies, social work and pasture management next semester — the first offering of such specializations in the country.

President of University of Jordan Walid Ma'ani said, "the idea behind this faculty of rehabilitation sciences came from Jordan's need for well-qualified people in rehabilitation sciences."

Ma'ani said the faculty will also provide outpatient care to patients who require some sort of rehabilitation or physiotherapy.

Ma'ani said the opening of the college has four objectives: to provide qualified, well-trained staff and therapists with view to meeting the needs of Jordan and the region in the rehabilitation sciences; to teach the academic aspects of rehabilitation and carry out research in public sector medical clinics; to provide specialised and effective services to the handicapped and centres for the disabled; and to develop working relationships between national, regional and international organisations dealing with the same

activities.

The new field of study will include four main scientific branches: physiotherapy, occupational therapy, prosthetics manufacturing and respiratory therapy.

Occupational therapy courses teach people new job skills in cases where disease renders them unable to participate in their previous employment.

Prosthetics devices will be given to patients who have a limp or may have had hands amputated. Ma'ani said, "Respiratory therapists will help patients after medical operations, so that the risk of infections will be reduced," he added.

According to Ma'ani, the rehabilitation services will help alleviate the suffering of certain patients and aid them in remaining productive, independent members of society.

Ma'ani said students who want to study in this college must pass the tawjih scientific stream with marks not less than eighty per cent.

The college could seat between 60 and 120 students in the four branches, Ma'ani told the Jordan Times.

During the four-year course, they will study a general core curriculum relevant to the four branches for two years. During the third and the fourth years students will

choose their specialisation within the faculty.

Ma'ani said the study in the new college will operate in coordination with students in the scientific stream at the University of Jordan and the University Hospital, which will offer students practical work experience during their first two years.

The establishment of the college will cost JD4 million, a cost that will be shared by the University of Jordan, the Ministry of Planning, and the aid of donor countries. Ma'ani is preparing to solicit various embassies in Amman to seek funding.

It would help students diversify creative abilities in analysing and putting emphasis on needed social policies, develop critical thinking and develop new social theories.

The social changes in our society have affected people's lives. Eventually, there must be specialists in fields related to social matters," Mqatash said.

The dean indicated that students wishing to pursue higher studies in women studies and social work must have achieved bachelors degrees in related fields, with marks not less than good.

Mqatash indicated that the motive of launching master degrees in pasture management is the existence of the large pastures which forms 90 percent of Jordan, Middle East and North Africa. Specialists in pasture management with high scientific and technical qualifications could help to properly invest in and exploit these pastures, and help solve Jordan's agricultural problems.

Admission to the pasture management programme requires a bachelor's degree in agriculture, biology or ecology.

West Bank hometown takes pride in Princess Rania

TULKAREM (AFP) — "Books, Stationery, Sports Goods, Games and Gifts" reads the sign above Kahled Yassin's bookshop near the governor's office in the West Bank market town of Tulkarem.

It is an unlikely setting as the workplace for the niece of a future queen.

Yassin, the bookshop's owner, is the paternal uncle of Her Royal Highness Princess Rania, the wife of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent.

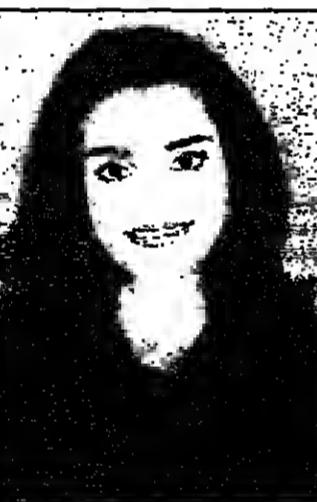
Before she was married, the likely future queen of Jordan was called Rania Yassin and the Yassins are a Tulkarem family.

"She was just a normal little girl when she came here. She played basketball or chess with my children. But we didn't know she was going to be a princess then," Yassin told AFP on Tuesday. "We're very proud of her and pleased that one day she will be queen of Jordan," the 67-year-old former

teacher said as he tried to cope with a rush of schoolchildren crowding his shop after the Eid Al Fitr holidays.

The Yassins are well-known in Tulkarem. As part of the larger Al Seif clan, the family has a long history of opposing invaders and one of its scions, Abdul Rahman Hajj Mohammad Yassin, led the Palestinian uprising against the British mandate in the Tulkarem area in 1936.

Like many Palestinians, Princess Rania's father and Khaled's brother, Faisal Yassin, left the West Bank to seek his fortune in



Kuwait, where Princess Rania was born.

She was educated in Kuwait and at the American University in Cairo. When the Palestinians were expelled from Kuwait after the Gulf War, her family left and went to Jordan.

"There are only four or five men from the family left in the town," said a cousin of Princess Rania's father, Ghazi Shafiq Yassin, 63, who works in the engineering department of Tulkarem municipality.

"But the people of Tulkarem and her family are very proud of Rania. We applaud her good fortune and for bringing together families, Arabs and Muslims together," he said.

Princess Rania's aunt Fadwa Yassin also glowed with pride.

"She is very intelligent, from the beginning, she was distinguished," she said during an interview with the Jerusalem Post. "As far as I am concerned, she could be queen of the world, not just Jordan."

Jordanian analysts believe that Princess Rania could be a major asset in Crown Prince Abdullah's relations with Jordanians of Palestinian origin, the Post said.

When Prince Abdullah ascends the Throne, his wife would not be the first queen of Palestinian origin. Alia Toukan, the third wife of King Hussein, traced her roots to a family from Nablus. She died in a helicopter crash while returning to Amman on February 9, 1977, from a trip to southern Jordan.

"But the people of Tulkarem and her family are very proud of Rania. We applaud her good fortune and for bringing together families, Arabs and Muslims together," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tarawneh inspects trade ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Fayed Tarawneh Wednesday inspected the Ministry of Trade and Industry and discussed the Kingdom's general economic situation with Minister Mohammad Saleh Hourani. During the meeting, Hourani briefed Tarawneh on Jordan's economic and supply situation and the ministry's efforts to serve several economic sectors, especially facilitating investment regulations, supporting exports, monitoring markets and providing basic materials. Hourani explained the development of the country's trade relations, and stressed the importance of continuingly strengthening these ties. Tarawneh stressed the importance of improving investment, facilitating regulations and solving investors' problems. He also emphasized the importance of encouraging the private sector to target Arab markets in boosting exports. At the end of the meeting, also attended by Ministry Secretary General Mohammad Halaiqa, the premier expressed satisfaction with the ministry's efforts and achievements.

Libyan interior minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Libyan Interior Minister Mohammad Zoui arrived in Amman Wednesday to participate in the 16th Meeting of the Arab Interior Ministers' Council, which will be held Friday at Al Hussein Youth City. The ministers will discuss Arab countries' cooperation and coordination in security, combatting terrorism and narcotics trafficking. Interior Minister Nayef Qadi, Interior Ministry Secretary General Hashim Sabbagh, Council Secretary General Ahmad Salem, Amman Governor Talat Nawayseh and other Jordanian and Libyan officials received Zoui at the airport.

Jordan attends Egyptian book fair

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in Egypt's 31st International Book Exhibition, which started on Tuesday and will last until the 11th of February. The Kingdom is participating with 500 items of several local publishers. Around 78 countries and 3,470 publishers are taking part in the display, which was opened by President Husni Mubarak. Three million books from around the world will be on display.

Jordan receives U.S. military aid

AMMAN (Petra) — As part of the U.S. military aid to Jordan, the Kingdom today receives military equipment worth \$25 million. The equipment, which is aimed to enhance Jordan's defence capacity, will be delivered at a special ceremony held in Aqaba. The equipment includes modern anti-aircraft weapons, infrared equipment, ammunition, telecommunication equipment and spare parts.

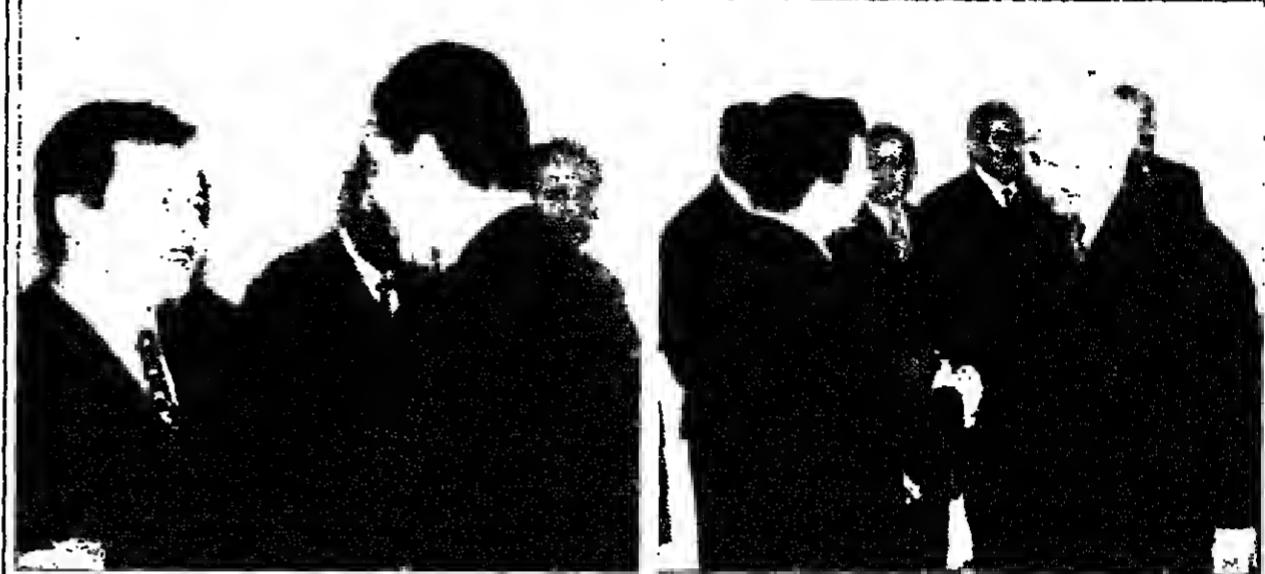
Municipality celebrates Arbor Day

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality in conjunction with the Hayat Cultural Centre and the National Action Committee for Childhood today celebrates Arbor Day as part of a national environmental campaign. Around 20,000 trees will be planted in 508 dunums in Wadi Quitar, eastern Amman, in an effort to limit desertification, soil depletion and erosion, increase vegetation, establish environment-friendly parks, exploit agricultural land, create an ecological balance through planting trees, preserve underground water. Children have been invited to participate in the activities in order to deepen concepts of team work, promote public awareness and to encourage them to preserve their environment.

Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, January 28-29, 1999 3



AT ATTENTION: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein inspects the Guard of Honour before a congratulatory ceremony at Raghadan Palace yesterday. Behind him is Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Miri Kaabneh (Petra photo)



THE RECEIVING LINE: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah receives well-wishers Wednesday at Raghadan Palace. Left is Prince Abdullah greeting former Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kubariti, and right, Prince Abdullah shakes the hand of former Information Minister Mahmoud Sharif (photos by Petrat)

Officials offer congratulations to King Hussein on appointment of Crown Prince Abdullah

AMMAN (Petra) — Senior Jordanian officials Moudaw sent congratulatory cables to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Abdullah, the Regent, on the occasion of his appointment as heir to the Hashemite Throne.

Messages were received from Senate President Zaid Rifai, President of the Judicial Council Taher Hikmat, Director of the General Intelligence Department Major General Sami Battikhi, Chief Islamic Justice and the King's advisor for Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Khutib Tamimi, Director of the Royal Medical Services Lt. General Yousef Qusous.

In his message to King Hussein, Rifai congratulated the King on behalf of the 40-member senate and renewed the Upper House of Parliament's allegiance to the Hashemite leadership.

He wished the King good health and long life. He congratulated Prince Abdullah in a message and wished him success and good luck.

Hikmat, in his cable to the King, said he and the judicial authority sup-

port King Hussein's choices and that they greet the recent decision with all due respect and appreciation. He congratulated the Regent and said he is confident Prince Abdullah will continue the King's approach in order to protect the judicial system and ensure its independence.

In his message to King Hussein, Battikhi said that, on behalf of himself and the General Intelligence Department, it was his honour to express sincere loyalty to King Hussein and renew his allegiance.

Battikhi, in a cable to Prince Abdullah, congratulated him, and said the department will continue its constant support to protect Jordan and its dignity, security and stability.

In a cable to King Hussein, Tamimi wished him good health and congratulated him on the naming of Prince Abdullah as Crown Prince.

Qusous, congratulated the Regent in a message, and said the Royal Medical Services will continue in their efforts to serve the Kingdom.

Share prices slip further but no run on dollar

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Share prices slipped further at the stock market on Wednesday as Jordanians awaited news on the health of His Majesty King Hussein, who was rushed back to a U.S. hospital on Tuesday suffering from recurrent fever and low blood count.

However, several bankers said they did not witness any unusual demand on the U.S. dollar similar to the panic buying they witnessed in July when King Hussein was first admitted to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, for chemotherapy treatment. Officials said that Jordanians transferred over \$400 million abroad in July, although over \$100 million have returned since then.

The AFM daily bulletin showed that turnover amounted to JD2.8 million compared to JD5.1 million on Tuesday while the 60-share index dropped to 175.54 points, or 2.27 per cent. Amer Mousher, a broker at the stock market, said many firms recorded a "limit down" — an instance in which a share price drops by five per cent of the total price, the maximum drop allowed — in their prices during the last day

of trading on the financial market.

Mousher pointed that major blue-chip stocks recorded a price decrease, notably the Arab and Housing banks, Jordan Phosphate Mining Company, the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) and companies in the pharmaceutical sector.

"People felt comfortable when the King returned home," the broker told the Jordan Times, "but the sudden trip for treatment on Tuesday took us by surprise and caused a decline in share prices."

"Those who bought shares on Tuesday decided to sell to avoid remarkable losses if prices drop further on the stock market," Mousher said.

"People are stable and we are not worried. The CBI's foreign reserves are okay and the Jordanian currency has not changed. Things remain in a positive position," the banker said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

• "The Godfather" (pt.1) at Books@Cafe, Jabal Amman, on Saturday Jan. 30 at 8:30 p.m. TEL. 4650458.

EXHIBITIONS

• "The Warm Winter" — works by several artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uthaina (TEL. 5526932, until Jan. 28).

Myanmar dismisses Suu Kyi deportation rumours

YANGON (R) — Myanmar's military government Sunday dismissed rumours that it might deport opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, saying they represented attempts by her party to create news headlines.

A Myanmar government statement said Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) should join the ruling military and other countries in finding ways of riding out the Asian economic crisis, rather than trying to seek publicity.

"We hope the NLD will contribute in a positive and meaningful way to achieve a better, fuller life... and take a more responsible, constructive cooperation rather than resorting to whimsical and symbolic gestures designed merely to attract attention and create seasonal sensational headlines," it said.

A NLD statement obtained by Reuters Friday quoted Suu Kyi as saying that she had no intention of

leaving Myanmar amid rumours in Yangon that she might be expelled from the country and the NLD dissolved after New Year.

The Nobel peace laureate said the government would have problems finding a country to accept her as she held only Myanmar's citizenship.

Myanmar's official media have in recent months questioned whether Suu Kyi is still entitled to Myanmar nationality on the grounds that she had married a British man, academic Michael Aris.

Semi-government organisations have in the past two months organised anti-NLD rallies in which they called for Suu Kyi's deportation and dissolution of her party.

State-owned media have also made similar demands since mid-September when the NLD launched its Committee Representing People's Parliament (CRPP).

The government statement Sunday said it was not an appropriate time for Suu

Kyi and the NLD to engage in sensational politics while most Asian countries still struggle to recover from the economic turmoil.

The Government of Myanmar is working hard to develop Myanmar and guide it through the current regional economic crisis. Much work remains ahead of us. The regional economic crisis is not improving and this is not the time for playing politics," it said.

The NLD statement quoted Suu Kyi as saying this week that the ruling government, called the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), would probably need to bribe a foreign totalitarian state with Myanmar's commodities in order to induce it to accept her.

"The only way for the ruling government to deport me is to make a give-and-take with a totalitarian state, by giving them a certain number of tonnes of rice or so... they don't have a rocket to send me to the moon either," she said.

The government statement Sunday said it was not an appropriate time for Suu



A young man clambering on a fallen tree in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, after high winds on Boxing Day caused structural damage, particularly in the north of the country. A man was killed, two were missing and 80,000 people were left without electricity after the heavy storms lashed Britain and Ireland, police said (AFP photo).

One dead, 2 missing as storms lash Britain, Ireland

LONDON (AFP) — A man was killed, two were missing and 80,000 people were left without electricity after storms lashed Britain and Ireland Saturday, police said.

The man's partner and their son, who were also on the beach, managed to return to land and were treated in hospital.

The bad weather also caused the cancellation of ferry services between Britain and Ireland.

In the southwestern English county of Devon a 44-year-old man was missing after falling into a river. Helicopter searches were continuing for the man.

Seas prevented any efforts to save him, a police spokesman said.

Searches resumed Sunday after being called off Saturday night.

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The bad weather also caused the cancellation of ferry services between Britain and Ireland.

In the southwestern English county of Devon a 44-year-old man was missing after falling into a river. Helicopter searches were continuing for the man.

The Environment Agency issued 50 flood warnings in that region after torrential rain fell throughout Saturday.

A 4,300-tonne Portuguese ship was towed to safety near the Isle of Wight in southern England, after the ship was washed towards rocks.

In Northern Ireland, a number of people needed treatment for minor injuries after the wind tore the roof off an apartment block.

The winds were expected to die down Sunday, but heavy rain is expected which forecasters said could worsen flooding.

U.S. lawmaker says Washington downplaying China threat in South China Sea

MANILA (AFP) — A senior U.S. congressman who has inspected a disputed chain of islands in the South China Sea has accused Washington of playing down China's aggression in the area, documents obtained Sunday said.

In his report to the chairman of the U.S. House Internal Relations Committee, Representative Dana Rohrabacher said the Chinese navy has been engaged in a "de facto encirclement of Spratly islands" by constructing military posts such as those discovered in a Philippine-claimed reef in November.

This "aggression" by the Chinese government "threatens trade and military sea-lanes vital to the United States and our allies," the U.S. legislator said.

"For two years, the State Department and the

Pentagon have pursued an 'ostrich policy' of burying their heads in the sand downplaying these dangerous developments," Rohrabacher said in his report, a copy of which was obtained by reporters here.

Rohrabacher had promised the Philippine government support in its dispute with China over the islands after he was flown over the area by Philippine officials two weeks ago.

He also accused China of "bullying" the Philippines by expanding military-type structures on Mischief Reef and stationing three naval vessels in the area.

The reef is part of the Spratly chain of islands that straddle vital shipping lanes in the South China Sea and are believed to lie atop vast oil and mineral deposits.

The islands are claimed in whole or part by China,

the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Vietnam and Taiwan.

The U.S. government had "steadfastly opposed our fact-finding efforts for fear of upsetting the Communist Chinese," Rohrabacher alleged.

He also warned of "greater conflicts" should Washington continue with its silence about the alleged "Chinese military build-up in the Spratlys."

A diplomatic row erupted between Manila and Beijing after the discovery of the expanded structures in November, which the Chinese government maintained were only fishing shelters.

President Joseph Estrada and his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin later agreed to resolve the dispute through peaceful means and for both governments to jointly use the structures pending a resolution of the sovereignty issue.

Police investigating suicides after poison ordered on Internet

TOKYO (AP) — A man who reportedly ran a "suicide clinic" on the Internet is suspected of providing cyanide to seven customers, including at least one woman who killed herself with the poison, police said Sunday.

The man reportedly called himself "Dr. Kiriko" — a Japanese comic book character who practices euthanasia — and killed himself earlier this month. A second of his customers also killed herself, but with sleeping pills.

A police spokesman in Tokyo who gave only his surname, Fujii, said Sunday that the seven people who ordered cyanide transferred money to the bank account of the man.

His body was discovered at his home in the city of Sapporo on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido on Dec. 15.

Quoting unidentified police sources, Kyodo News agency said he was a 27-year-old pharmacist with a history of mental illness. Media reports said he committed

suicide. The cyanide suicides are the latest in a year of bizarre poisoning cases that have troubled Japan, which once prided itself on relative freedom from indiscriminate crime.

"At the close of a dark year yet another poisoning incident symbolic of it has occurred," lamented the Yomiuri newspaper, Japan's largest, in a Sunday editorial.

Fujii said police are investigating the suicides of two of "Dr. Kiriko's" customers, a 21-year-old Tokyo woman who died from an apparent overdose of sleeping pills and another person who died after taking cyanide.

The Asahi newspaper reported the woman who used cyanide was a 24-year-old Tokyo resident and committed suicide on Dec. 15.

Yomiuri reported Sunday that another Tokyo woman has confessed to acting as an intermediary between the suicide victim and the cyanide provider. Fujii said three others

who made cash transfers have been confirmed alive, while two remain unaccounted for. Media reports, however, said four have been confirmed alive.

Kyodo reported that the man's Internet site was called "Dr. Kiriko's consultation room," featuring information on suicide by poisoning and offered advice via e-mail for those who wanted to kill themselves.

The suicides were the latest in a string of poison deaths this year in Japan.

In July, four people died and 63 became ill after eating curry rice laced with arsenic at a summer festival in southwestern Japan. A former insurance saleswoman was arrested earlier this month on murder and attempted murder charges in those deaths.

The poisoning set off a spate of copycat crimes with drinks at stores and in vending machines, including a man who died after drinking a can of tainted tea.

Fighting in Angola blocks searches for crashed U.N. plane

LUANDA (AFP) — Battles between Angolan government troops and UNITA rebels hampered a search for the wreckage of a U.N. plane which crashed in the centre of the war-torn African country. U.N. sources said Sunday.

MONUA officials were not available for comment early Sunday.

Angola plunged back into serious conflict this year, as hardliners in UNITA loyal to the movement's veteran leader Jonas Savimbi have refused to disarm and demobilise in line with the Lusaka protocols and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has decided to crush the armed guerrillas by force.

In the past month, heavy fighting causing hundreds of casualties has broken out in the chief town of Bie province east of Huambo, Kuito. Kuito was already devastated in ferocious battles that broke out anew after UNITA lost general elections to Dos Santos's People's Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) late in 1992.

The United Nations has appealed to the government and UNITA for help in access to the

crash site and for assistance in rescuing any survivors, but it was not known whether they included U.N. observers who have been trying to implement peace protocols signed in Lusaka in 1994.

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The Luanda government estimates that Savimbi still has some 35,000 men in arms.

Roman Catholic radio station, Ecclesia, said that some 200 people had been killed since UNITA forces began an offensive on Kuito on Dec. 9, adding that 463 people needed hospital treatment after heavy bombardments which ended Saturday night.

Thirty-five people died Friday in Kuito, one family losing eight members in the shelling, and 63 people were wounded.

The Angolan army struck back against the rebels Saturday, forcing UNITA artillery units to withdraw from the hills around Kuito, Ecclesia reported.

The residents of the ruined town left shelters Sunday where they had spent Christmas and many went to mass.

UNITA and the formerly Marxist MPLA have been struggling for power since independence from Portugal in 1975, and successive attempts by the United Nations and mediating countries to end the conflict have foundered.

The Luanda government estimates that Savimbi still has some 35,000 men in arms.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pope shares holiday wishes with pilgrims at Castel Gandolfo

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (AP) — Holding up well despite a demanding holiday schedule, a smiling Pope John Paul II lingered on the balcony of his vacation retreat Sunday to listen to the Christmas hymns and greetings of pilgrims gathered below. "Long live the Pope," one man chanted in the courtyard of his palace at Castel Gandolfo — a wish picked up and applauded by others in the crowd. John Paul, 78, delivered his weekly Sunday address from the balcony, cloaked in a red cape against the cold. Earlier in the month, a flu and fever had forced him to cancel some events. His voice stayed strong Sunday throughout what was only the latest in days of loquacious appearances, including a midnight Mass Christmas Eve that had kept him up until the early hours of the morning. Saturday, he came to his vacation retreat outside Rome for a few days of rest. Urging Catholics Sunday to think of both their families and the homeless throughout the remainder of the holidays, he became animated only after he finished his scripted remarks — when the faithful burst into applause. He smiled, leaned forward and nodded, staying outside for a few minutes while the crowd of Catholics from around the world clapped, cheered and sang. Wishing them a good rest of the holiday, and a happy last Sunday of the year, he finally disappeared back inside.

Russia puts newest nuclear missile generation online

MOSCOW (AP) — The military put 10 new Topol-M nuclear missiles on full combat readiness Sunday, the first time the missile has been deployed. The missile was developed to sustain Russia as a global nuclear power. The single-warhead Topol-M's were commissioned in the Saratov region, about 700 kilometres southeast of Moscow, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported. The deployment was a major step for Russia's cash-strapped military. The government doesn't have enough money to maintain all its armed forces, and decided to concentrate defence spending on developing the Topol-M. This is a very important event, because even in the difficult financial conditions of 1998 we have managed to find funds for financing this top priority area, said Defence Minister Igor Sergeyev, according to ITAR-TASS. The intercontinental Topol-M will be the new heart of Russia's missile forces. Forty are expected to be built by the end of 2000, taking the place of heavier, multiple-warhead missiles. The Topol-M is a lightweight, rugged missile designed to be fired from a vehicle. Its mobility increases its safety from preemptive enemy first strikes, unlike silo-based warheads.

1 killed, 2 injured in building collapse

PISA, Italy (AFP) — A 76-year-old woman was fatally injured and two people were hurt when a three-storey block of flats partly collapsed overnight at Pontedera, near Pisa, in northwest Italy, police said Sunday. A whole wing of the building caved in, probably because of a gas explosion, they said. Rescuers pulled the woman out alive, but she died in hospital. Two young people were slightly hurt. No other residents of the block of six flats were injured. Less than two weeks earlier, on Dec. 16, 27 people were killed when a residential block collapsed in Rome.

Weather could help bamboo raft reach Darwin

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Favourable weather could help a 16-metre bamboo raft — retracing what organisers say was man's first ocean voyage 100,000 years ago — reach Darwin in northern Australia by Dec. 31. The raft, Nale Tasib, is the project of Australian maritime historian Bob Hobman, who is re-enacting the arrival of the ancestors of Australian aborigines from Kupang on the Indonesian island of Timor. Early Sunday, the Nale Tasib was 160 nautical miles from its destination after setting out on Dec. 17, and crossing into Australian waters on Dec. 26. Hobman said forecasts of freshening winds linked to a strengthening monsoonal trough across northern Australia could push the raft to the mainland by Thursday. On board with Hobman is a crew of four, including Melbourne-based scientist Robert Bednark, Australian documentary film maker Peter Rogers, and two Indonesian crew members. Food supplies are being supplemented by fresh fish speared by the Indonesian sailors. Hobman said the raft's first attempt to cross the Timor Sea earlier this year was thwarted by the El Nino phenomenon which held back the annual monsoons in the region.

Paris' Arc de Triomphe shut down by strike

PARIS (R) — The Arc de Triomphe, one of Paris's most popular tourist attractions, was off-limits to visitors Sunday as the monument's employees went on strike over staffing levels and pay. Built on the orders of the Emperor Napoleon between 1806 and 1835 to honour the French army, the arc draws about a million visitors a year and offers a panoramic view of the French capital. The employees, who walked out Saturday afternoon, have demanded negotiations with the culture ministry before they will consider returning to work. They complain they must work too much overtime and are demanding bonuses and the hiring of additional staff. A ministry spokesman said talks were expected to begin Monday between the arc's approximately 50 employees and the Caisse Nationale des Monuments Historique, the state agency that manages France's historic monuments. The last two months have been particularly tough on Paris tourists, who have been barred for a few days at a time from the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, Orsay and Grand Palais art museums due to wildcat strikes.

Two Peruvian cholera victims hospitalised in Chile

ARICA, Chile (AP) — Two Peruvian cholera victims were hospitalised in the Chilean port city of Arica, local health authorities said Saturday. They were the first known cases of cholera in Chile in the last four years. The patients are merchants who make frequent trips between their country and Arica, a city bordering on Peru and 1,650 kilometres north of Santiago. They were hospitalised Thursday. Doctors said their lives were not in danger. Cholera is an acute bacterial infection involving the small intestine. It is marked by diarrhoea and vomiting. The region's health service ordered stricter inspection of water discharges and the local water supply to detect the presence of cholera organisms. The health service also urged people to thoroughly cook seafood and vegetables that grow close to the ground. Chile controlled an outbreak of the disease between 1991 and 1994, when the disease spread from neighbouring Peru and affected about 150 persons, three of whom died.

Jordan Times

An independent Arabic daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation Established 1975

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Facsimile: Editorial: 5696183. Advertising: 5693337

E-mail: jotimes@go.com.jo

Web Site: <http://www.access.2arabia.com/jordantimes/>

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department

Stray missiles, stray policies

IT IS strikingly odd that while Washington admits its missiles have hit civilian targets in Basra on Monday, it still puts the blame for the civilian deaths on Baghdad. It is hard to sympathise with the logic of U.S. reasoning especially at a time when it confesses that its "highly accurate" rockets swerved from their intended target and hit residential areas.

The U.S. decision to declare parts of northern and southern Iraq as no-fly zones is a unilateral decision devoid of international legitimacy. Russian President Boris Yeltsin raised this point recently by calling on Washington to stop taking unilateral military actions against Iraq. But the U.S. seems to be in no listening mood. Washington still persists in pursuing its agenda on that Arab country, most probably, encouraged by the outcome of the recent Arab foreign ministerial meeting in Cairo. With no Arab summit looming on the horizon, the U.S. interprets the Arab posture as a licence to continue its policy towards Iraq and its people with impunity.

During the Gulf War in 1991, several U.S. "smart" missiles hit many civilian targets including a shelter in the heart of Baghdad in which Iraqi women and children sought refuge from the war. We all remember with horror the results of a U.S. weapon that went astray then. No amount of apologies would compensate the Iraqi people for the human loss then or now.

It seems that Washington is bent on seeing only one side of the equation of the Arab scene and insists on its own interpretation of the Arab pulse on Iraq. While the recent Arab ministerial meeting in Cairo appeared inconclusive and the prospects of holding an Arab summit seem now to be remote, the U.S. will be committing a grave error if it ignored the sentiment of Arab peoples manifested during last month's meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union. The U.S. should therefore sense the Arab mood because ignoring that would not be in the interest of the U.S. or its Arab allies.

The Iraqi situation has been prolonged for much too long. It is time for an honest, fair and equitable reassessment. Driving the Iraqi people further into desperation smacks of more trouble ahead. Sound and sensible diplomacy is what we and Iraq need most. Enough is enough. It is high time to call a spade a spade.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Mufid Nahleh said that although the Drought Committee feels that Jordan has only been affected by the drought as much as all the countries in the Mediterranean region, the situation in the Kingdom is dangerous and needs all parties' attention. Everybody is aware of the drought and how scarce the Kingdom's water resources are, Nahleh said. Thus, he said, administrations responsible for water issues have to establish strategies to support water reserves and search for safe alternatives in order to ensure that water is available in the coming years. The committee is concentrating on grazing land, support for livestock breeders and providing water to their animals while at the same time ignoring other important factors in cities, the badia and the countryside, said the writer. The committee has allocated JD150 million to cope with the effects of the drought, but this is not enough to provide water even for a month, said Nahleh. The biggest problem facing city communities is water shortage, and the country's economy and tourism will be harmed if such should occur, the writer warned.

Al Dustour's Mazen Saket said the contamination of the Zai Water Treatment Plant's water is still being reviewed by the courts and thus the media are banned from reporting on it. But the water crisis, pollution, even the plant's capabilities and its possible dysfunction, are very important issues to citizens, Saket added. Even though the administrative matters are in court, the situation at Zai needs immediate and decisive action by the Ministry of Water and Irrigation. Just like any construction, water and desalination projects require maintenance, expansion and development, but these elements were almost absent during the past years as a result of a lack of proper planning and budgeting. This led such projects into serious problems, and the state of the Kingdom's 14 treatment plants proves this, according to Saket, who called for an immediate review of all treatment plants, including Zai, in order to prevent any future crisis.

Studies, activities and parental attitudes

THERE ARE many parents in our society who have, especially recently, become amply conscious of the various needs of their children during their school years. Children need to study, learn, acquire information and become competent in the many subjects they take at school, but they also need to grow, develop and evolve in many other ways — and to have fun.

Hence you find such parents making it a point to involve their children in various activities throughout the academic year itself and in the summer vacation: sports, music, reading groups, camps of sorts, etc. They also make it a point to take their children with them to the movies, shops, restaurants, picnics, etc. One learns from books, but one also learns from experience. In today's fast-changing world, where information technologies

have changed quantitatively and qualitatively, individuals cannot confine their knowledge and experience to books.

Acquiring information is important, but acquiring general skills is also important. It is a must to know historical, scientific and general facts, for example. But it is also a must to be able to socialise with relatives and friends, to hold intelligent discussions with friends and acquaintances, to buy commodities of sorts and bargain with salesmen, to go out and watch movies, to dine out, to play sports, etc.

This is all fine, some may hasten to say. Where is the problem?

The problem lies in a majority of parents in our part of the world, especially in the less privileged segments of our society who think that their children's sole job during the academic year is to study. Most such parents want their chil-

dren to spend most of their time, if not all of it, with books. And what books? Not books which you check out of the library or books which you buy from bookstores, but textbooks.

Some of these parents dismiss the notion that their children can study, get involved in other activities, and play at the same time. There is no sense whatsoever not only of time organisation, and of sorting out priorities, but also of the fact that sports, outings, socialising, movies, peer gatherings, etc. are important to students' personal growth and development. Anything other than studying is a waste of time.

This is why such parents prevent their children from playing, from going out, from watching television, from socialising, from reading books outside the school syllabus and from a number of other activities.

View from Academia



Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubah

Many students who come from this particular segment of our society grow up lacking many essential needs — psychological, physiological, intellectual and social. Their parents want them to be textbook-worms. For what purpose? For the sole purpose of getting

high grades in exams, and not for the purpose, even, of acquiring information or knowledge.

There is a problem, at this level — a big problem. Many of our students reach adulthood and are ignorant of the most basic skills. They do not know how to buy from salesmen, they do not know how to socialise adequately, they do not know how to express themselves effectively, they do not know how to cook the simplest of meals, they do not know how to check a book out from the library, they do not know how to cross the street, etc. There are so many things which they do not know in fact.

Life and school can go together — must go together. This is what many parents in our society need to learn. It is a must not only to enlighten parents about this but also to help and empower them to help and empower their children.

LETTERS

A long way to go

To the Editor:

I AM A Jordanian woman who lives in the United States. I did not have the opportunity to watch the 20/20 programme, however, it created such a controversy here that all my American colleagues, were asking me about this practice and expressing horror and shock and disdain for Jordan as a country and its "backward" people. Of course, I was caught off guard: I have always known that in extreme cases, this sort of thing occurs in Jordan, but that it is not the norm and it is not really accepted in our society as a "tradition" as is now believed in the U.S.

Needless, to say, I was humiliated and did my best to give all kinds of arguments to explain that this is really not what Jordan is all about, and it is not tradition and it is not normal. I know that this practice is horrible and the Jordanian government should exert great efforts to prevent such murders.

On the other hand, I find it very hard to understand why the Western media insist on portraying Arabs as cold-blooded, backward, savage murderers. If we look at the crime statistics across the Arab World, we find that it is the lowest in the world. In the U.S., rape is such a common crime that, on average, an American woman is likely to be raped every minute.

A pool of very well-educated and professional women across the Arab World have achieved a measurable level of progress in establishing the basis of women's rights, but it seems that we still have a long way to go.

Nida Abu-Rumman, U.S.

Together we'll build peace

To the Editor:

THE MAJOR developments that have taken place in this century, including sophisticated weaponry, have shown that mankind and the environment are threatened with total ruin and destruction.

Violence in many forms has been assaulting human societies, and many people have been suffering in silence from the use of violence against them. We must exert our greatest efforts to stop such practices. Violence only creates pain and instability, and there is more to come in a sick planet that is threatened with complete devastation.

• Let us teach peace: Let us implant it in our children's hearts and bring them up on this principle. This will be the first step towards building a world of peace and security, to ensure a safe and better future life for our children.

• Let us teach our children that violence is the weapon of ignorant persons, and that tolerance and peace are the weapons of the wise.

• Let us teach them to defend their opinions with argument, as violence has never won an argument.

• Let us teach them that tolerance is the weapon of the strong, and vengeance is that of the weak.

• Let us teach them that tolerance sometimes is even tougher than violence.

Together we can build a world of peace for us all!

Mohannad Abu Jaber, Amman

Be logical

To the Editor:

I WONDER why political analysts writing about the Arabs never refer to the real reason behind many of our problems? Why don't they analyse Arab psychology?

I don't agree with those who think that our tragedy is because of U.S., U.K. or U.N. The reason isn't political, it is cultural. We are more concerned with form than essence. It is time for us to behave logically and stop allowing our emotions to dictate our future!

Mohammad Al-Btoush, Karak

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any issue they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld upon request but only under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing and abridging.

Save water
Every drop counts



Of gentle breezes, hot air and winds of change

Developing World



Riad al Khouri

‘Amman remains dominated by the ‘Clean Laundry’ school of political economy and the ‘Squeaky Clean’ fanatics’

change. The partnership between civil society, the private sector, governments and multilateral institutions that World Bank President James Wolfensohn evoked in September of last year at the Mediterranean Development Forum in Marrakech would also be a good thing for Jordan. One of the challenges faced in the country today is how to improve access to economic information. This information is in the hands of both governments and development agencies such as the World Bank. It would be nice for the bank and our government to support a series of meetings that would bring together state agencies and local economists to discuss actions that would lead to better information sharing.

Such a step, if supported by the government, would help to allow more effective public debate of economic problems. Such constructive airing of our difficulties could be a step in the right direction. The alternative is for the hot air to continue to blow, instead of winds of change.

WITH ALL due respect to those in both the public and private sectors talking in the past few days about major reform, the forecast for Amman does not in my opinion include the prospect of strong winds of change. Jordan is stuck in the middle of more than one major crisis in a volatile region, and the troubles of Iraq, Palestine and other parts of the Middle East mean that the priority for Jordanians remains stability and security. Happily, Jordan has been secure and stable for some time now, and that is certainly a blessing. However, these overriding considerations will continue to take priority over things like strong economic growth, innovative change, and a major overhaul of state institutions as well as the socio-economic system in general. In such a context, the winds of change are likely to be light breezes.

Nevertheless, change must come. The brutal truth is that the present economic system cannot continue in the current regional context without more and more foreign aid. This help from our friends abroad may appear like the kiss of life to some; in fact it is the kiss of death. Insofar as many Jordanians are becoming more dependent on help from the outside, the economy in general and the government in particular is starting to be kept afloat economically by more foreign aid. This is a recipe for disaster.

What we have experienced over the last few years was not in fact strong winds of change so much as powerful blasts of hot air from people in the public and private sector alike spouting slogans in a desperate attempt to beautify an ugly system and shore up a sagging economy. Such pronouncements — whether made by Jordanians or others — have ended up being grossly misleading to businesses. Sending the wrong signals to people is part of the cause of the present crisis. When the Peace Train crashed in 1996, Jordanian economic development in general and investment in some sectors in particular got out of killer with regional politics. Partly as a result of this, Jordanians continued to get poorer in 1996-98, with growth in population running higher than the expansion of the economy. The current year will probably not be better, with officials projecting economic expansion of three per cent, about the same level as the rise in the population. Of course, this is a fiasco, particularly as

the Amman media which are directly run by the state or indirectly influenced by the government have been throwing cheerful economic news at us. Amman remains dominated by the ‘Clean Laundry’ school of political economy, which insists that only good things be said about Jordan outside the country, and the ‘Squeaky Clean’ fanatics who refuse to say anything bad both here and abroad are very powerful too. All these people have not stopped telling us that Jordan’s economy has to a large extent been stabilised compared to the period of upheaval of the late 1980s. However, that was a decade ago. Jordan had been seen as a ‘star pupil’ of the IMF thanks to apparently successful years of economic reform. However, even if this is true it should not continue to be cause for self-congratulation. Structural adjustment simply means that you were doing something wrong, and that now this has to be corrected. Whether the structural adjustment currently foisted on us is a good thing itself is another story entirely.

Whatever happens to the economy over the next few years, Jordan needs clearer heads to evaluate and debate the economic facts publicly. The people who run the country must be more open in disseminating economic information and in explaining reforms fully to the public. Debate and discussion of policies and consensus building for policy choices must also be undertaken. Better understanding of economic policies by the public enhances the credibility and acceptability of policies and also ensures accountability on the part of governments. Otherwise, it’s back to the extremes of official obfuscation confronting public scepticism.

As I have mentioned in a previous column, the start of a solution is for the government to first admit that the economy is in bad shape. The first step must be for as high an official as possible to say as loudly as possible that the economy is a mess. To continue to talk about external factors without mentioning internal ones such as corruption, overmanning, slow decision-making, and many other public sector issues is misleading. Not that these problems are going to be solved overnight, but honesty by the government is a prerequisite for changes in the public sector which are vital if Jordan is to develop. This is a tall order, but a start can be made in the present period of

feature

By Julian B.

By Tim Radford

The spy who made McCarthy

By Julian Borger

LIKE PATHOLOGISTS trying to explain a freak viral outbreak, American historians have been poring over the McCarthyist phenomenon for the past half-century, striving to explain how a small group of legislators, the House Un-American Activities Committee, managed to paralyse U.S. democracy and scar a generation. But the great, ironic secret at the committee's roots has emerged only now, in Moscow. According to newly unearthed KGB files, the committee's founding father — the man who paved the way for Senator Joe McCarthy's witch-hunts — was a Soviet spy.

His name was Samuel Dickstein, a Democratic congressman from Manhattan who created the committee's prototype in 1934 as a means for hunting down home-grown Nazis.

His campaign against the spread of American fascism and his post-war service as a New York judge are honoured by a commemorative collection of his papers in the American Jewish Archives.

But to the NKVD (the KGB's precursor) Dickstein was an important, if troublesome, agent whose mercenary instincts earned him the codename 'Crook'. For just over two years, at the onset of the World War II, his handlers believed he was worth the money. It was the first and — as far as anyone knows — the last time the Soviet spymasters managed to 'buy' a member of Congress.

Dickstein's espionage has come to light now as a result of an unusual deal struck by the U.S. publishers Random House and the KGB's old-boy network, the Association of Retired Intelligence Officers. In return for a lump-sum payment, two researchers — Allen Weinstein and Alexander Vassiliev, a retired Russian agent — had roughly two years, 1994 to 1996, to rummage through an assortment of KGB dossiers. They were then able to check

what they found against U.S. intercepts of Soviet intelligence communications from the period.

In their book *The Haunted Wood*, Weinstein and Vassiliev portray an unfamiliar America, where some of the richest and brightest of the New Deal era vied with one another to spy for Stalin. It was the high-water mark of the American left. *The Haunted Wood* describes a world where: 'Academics or covert Communists, democratic socialists, farmer-labour activists, and Roosevelt Democratic loyalists found common ground within the many new agencies and older departments of FDR's government.'

The spies who sprouted from this ferment came in many varieties. Alongside Dickstein, who sold his services mainly for money, there were egalitarian New Deal policy wonks, who spied out of anti-fascist conviction, and the daughter of the U.S. ambassador in Berlin, who did it for love and sex.

Another traitor unmasked by Weinstein and Vassiliev is Lawrence Duggan, the head of the Latin American section in Roosevelt's State Department, who was apparently desperate to strike a covert blow for socialism.

According to Boris Bazarov, the Washington station chief, Duggan told his Soviet handlers: 'The only thing which kept him at his hateful job in the State Department where he did not get out of his tuxedo for two weeks, every night attending a reception, was the idea of being useful for our cause.'

From the NKVD documents, Duggan comes across as a typical member of a substantial group of young American intellectuals, which included Alger Hiss — another rising State Department star in the late thirties. Their faith in the American way of life had been shaken by the Wall Street crash and the Depression, and they viewed the Soviet Union as the most effective remaining bulwark against Hitler.

Dickstein was different. He was 42 years old when he first made contact

with Soviet agents in 1937. By then he had been a congressman for the Lower East Side for 15 years, and was very much part of the corrupt world of big city politics. There is evidence that he demanded under-the-counter payments from immigrants for help in securing U.S. visas.

In *The Haunted Wood*, the Lithuanian-born New Yorker emerges as a jaded and cynical player. He put a price on his information, and let it be known he was available to the highest bidder. He began by offering details on Russian rightwingers living in the U.S., but went on to supply secret details of the 1940 war budget.

He demanded \$2,500 per month for his work and complained bitterly when he was tentatively offered a fifth of that amount. It was at this point his handlers dubbed him the 'Crook'. One of them noted in his report back to Moscow: 'We are fully aware who we are dealing with, "Crook" is completely justifying his code name. This is an unscrupulous type, greedy for money, consented to work because of money, a very cunning swindler.'

When the Soviets withheld payments — suspecting (with some justification) they were being paid in commonly-available gossip at absurdly high prices — Dickstein complained he had been paid by British intelligence 'without any questions'.

Weinstein, a veteran U.S. spy-watcher, says he and Vassiliev (who now lives in Britain) were unable to stand up Dickstein's claims to be a part-time British agent, because our intelligence records from the era remain sealed. 'It was his claim. It could have been a boast. At this point there's no way of telling,' Weinstein says.

But Dickstein's Soviet handler, Peter Gutzeit, took him at his word and was easily taken aback by such brazen promiscuity: 'We are shocked,' Gutzeit sniffed to his superiors 'but here it is normal.' Dickstein clearly saw selling secrets as a lucrative side-

line to his legislative work, maximizing the financial returns of office. But leafing through some of his personal records in the National Archives, it is at least possible to conceive of another, more sympathetic, side to Dickstein.

The files suggest that he went in search of NKVD roubles only after his self-styled crusade against the Nazis was muted by a Congress steeped in anti-Semitism into the red-hunting witch-hunt it ultimately became.

In December 1933 radio address, Dickstein set out the case for his Special Committee on Un-American Activities. While chairman of the Immigration and Naturalisation Committee, he said he had unearthed enough evidence of German infiltration 'to define the Nazi government here as the most dangerous threat to our democracy that has ever existed'.

He pointed to new pro-Nazi organisations springing up across the U.S., such as the Friends of New Germany, and the Silver Shirts of America, which espoused the creation of a racially pure Aryan society and the segregation of Jews.

When his proposal went to the floor of the House in March 1934, however, it met determined resistance. One congressman warned against an 'investigation of the German government or the so-called "persecution of the Jews in Germany".

Another congressman, from Texas, waxed lyrical about his state's tolerance for Jews.

'Throughout my life, I have been friendly with the Jewish race. We played together as boys... Some of my closest friends in life have been Jews. In every place in Texas where I have lived there has been no discrimination whatever against Jews.' As a Jewish immigrant himself, Dickstein would have been aware of the realities of the American

South as the plight of the Jews in Germany.

But to win his prize, he said what was required of him, promising Congress: 'This committee has nothing to do with the affairs being conducted in Germany... We are not interested in what happens in Germany.' Dickstein got his committee, but the chairmanship went instead to John McCormack of Massachusetts, who divided its investigations equally between U.S. Nazi sympathisers and a range of left-wing groups including trade unions.

By 1937, Dickstein began looking for other outlets for his anti-Nazi zeal and had become a paid Soviet agent.

When the committee was reconstituted in 1938 as the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) under the rightwing leadership of Martin Dies, it turned almost its entire attention to the pursuit of suspected communists. Dickstein failed to win a seat on the new panel. He looked on powerlessly as U.S. 'brownshirts' under the leadership of the 'American Führer', Fritz Kuhn, rallied in Madison Square Garden.

Without access to HUAC's inner workings, he was of diminishing interest to his Soviet spy-masters. Having paid him a total of \$12,000 (now worth about

\$123,000), the NKVD decided in 1940 that he was more trouble than he was worth.

After five more years in Congress, Dickstein served as a New York judge until he died in 1954. Senator Joseph McCarthy fell from grace the same year, but by then Dickstein's mutant creation had run amok across the U.S.

The committee itself stumbled on until 1976, when Congress finally killed it off. The damage it had done to American society is still visible today — for example in the almost physical horror of socialism and social democracy.

After all these years, it is somehow fitting to discover that it was the brain-child of a traitor.

— *The Guardian*



S C I E N C E A N D T E C H N O L O G Y

Life didn't start with a bang. It didn't start at all

By Tim Radford

The history of time is no longer brief. The universe never actually began: it bubbled off from some other, pre-existing universe. And it will not come to an end: other parts of the universe are being created now. 'If life in our part of the universe were to disappear, it will appear again somewhere else,' the cosmological theorist Andrei Linde told the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Anaheim, California. 'So the universe as a whole becomes immortal.'

Professor Linde, the Russian physicist based at Stanford University, is one of the architects of the new universe theories. He has discarded the Big Bang version made famous (and understandable) by the Cambridge cosmologist Stephen Hawking. Linde does not believe that everything began 15 billion years ago but sees the universe in which human life developed as just one of many inflating balls of space time that in turn produce new balls, and so on for ever.

The original idea was that all the universe appeared as an explosion of very hot matter, a huge ball of fire. Then we understood that this was not big enough, not fast enough, not explosive enough,' he said.

Fossil shows speedy dinosaurs

The Associated Press

THE BEST-PRESERVED dinosaur fossil ever found suggests some of the extinct animals had the super-powerful lungs needed to be fast and deadly hunters.

A 110 million-year-old fossil of a baby dinosaur called *Scipionyx* is so well-preserved that researchers believe it bears the image of some of the animal's internal organs, said Nicholas Geist, a paleobiologist at Oregon State University.

'The extraordinary condition of the fossils allows us to hang some meat on the bones of these animals,' said Geist, the senior author of a study which appeared last week in the journal *Science*.

'Right now there are some other parts of the universe where newer and newer parts are being produced: they are inflating and expanding exponentially and then they come to a stage similar, or maybe dissimilar, to ours,' he said. The universe contained 100 billion galaxies each with 100 billion stars. 'If you start with a typical Big Bang universe with a typical size with a typical density initially and then you count how many particles the universe would contain, the answer would be one particle, or maybe 10 particles, but not the amount of particles necessary to make one journalist,' he said. 'So the fact that you are here is proof something was wrong with the Big Bang theory.'

In such a system, muscles pull against the liver, causing the breathing cavity to expand slightly. That forces air into the

lungs at a high rate. 'This is necessary for sustained activity,' said Geist.



Meat-eating dinosaurs may have been technically reptilian, but they could run fast enough and long enough to chase down any prey they wanted (Reuters photo)

lungs at a high rate.

'This is necessary for sustained activity,' said Geist.

'These theropods were exceedingly fast and dangerous animals.'

They were not slow and sluggish like many modern reptiles. 'Mammals have a diaphragm muscle that causes the lung cavity to expand and draw in air. The ability to rapidly ventilate the lungs is essential for moving swiftly for long periods.'

Dinosaurs' lung capacity may be one reason they dominated mammals for about 150 million years, said Geist. Mammals during this period were small and no match for the meat-eating dinosaur.

'These dinosaurs were fierce animals that could run prey down over extended distances,' Geist said. 'This was like a turbocharged lizard. The mammals couldn't get a foothold and just tried to stay out of the way.' The hepatic piston

works best in a warm, mild climate such as the Earth enjoyed during most of the dinosaur era. When the climate chilled, the dinosaurs were in trouble, Geist said.

These animals may have been so specialised for the warm climate that even a minor change over an extended period may have helped do them in,' he said.

But not all experts agree that the *Scipionyx* fossil gives such precise evidence of a hepatic pump breathing system, said Paul Sorenson, a dinosaur expert at the University of Chicago.

'For many in the field, that interpretation is controversial,' said Sorenson.

The *Scipionyx* fossil, the only dinosaur ever found in Italy, is small enough to hold in two hands and the animal may have been only days old when it died. Geist said it perished in a saltwater marsh that preserved its body structure.

No fossil for an adult *Scipionyx* has been found and Geist said the animal species probably grew to only about the size of a large dog.

Going it alone or engaging in a spot of networking

By Jean-Claude Elias

chip talk



THOSE WHO started their love affair with personal computers in the eighties know all too well how many times

computers), albeit only for the duration of the connection, that is until you hang up or shut off the modem.

Small and medium-sized firms were afraid of the complexity of LANs, now the whole setup and work procedure have become user-friendly. It's even feasible for private users. I know of some homes in Amman which are equipped with LANs where 2, 3 or even 4 PCs are interconnected.

This provides the enormous advantages to share expensive peripherals for example — just buy one laser printer or one scanner and let all the systems on the LAN use them.

There is no rule as to whether one should or should not go for networking.

Generally speaking, home users and small offices can live perfectly happy without a LAN. Then again, anyone with an Internet connection already has some form of networking. There is no doubt that leaving your computer 'unconnected' will ensure greater security and fewer hassles.

You'll sleep better at night. In some cases though a LAN is the only answer to data sharing and to avoid buying redundant hardware.

Each situation is to be analysed separately for the needs and requirements vary tremendously from one case to another.

Why worry about the Millennium? We got it wrong

By Mark Egan

Reuters

MUCH OF THE world plans to welcome a new Millennium on Jan. 1, 2000. But one scientist says that celebration could be a few seconds off, or a year early, or less than a year early — or maybe many years off the mark.

Harvard University astrophysicist Owen Gingerich on Saturday dubbed the current Millennium excitement 'the odometer syndrome,' likening this irrational exuberance to children waiting for a car's mileage counter to change from 999 to 1000.

But not wanting to spoil the Millennium celebration of those listening to his speech at the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting, Gingerich had a suggestion.

'Why not celebrate twice? So when exactly is the Millennium? That's a different question from the one I'm going to answer,' Gingerich replied in true

academic fashion. 'I'm going to say 2001 because that is how it goes on the calendar cycle that we have adopted.' Going by our calendar, which was set in October 1592, the new Millennium begins on Jan. 1, 2001. That's because our calendar started in 1 A.D. since there was no year 0, Gingerich said.

But like many academic riddles, it's more complicated than that. Even the date Jan. 1, 2001, is not strictly speaking, the start of the new Millennium.

Gingerich said the basis out of current calendar comes from calculations made in the year 531 A.D. by a monk called Dionysius Exiguus, known affectionately in scientific circles as Dennis the Short. But in the Dionysian cycle, the first year starts at the beginning of the first full calendar year of the reign of a new emperor. Therefore, since our calendar is based on the birth of Jesus Christ, who was born on Dec. 25 in the year 1 B.C., the Millennium should be celebrated on Dec. 25, 2000.

But even that is not the real Millennium.

'That is the anniversary of a non-event,' Gingerich said adding to avoid any blasphemous implications, 'because Christ was already born for several years before that time. Exactly when Christ was born, I don't know; it's a very complicated and controversial business.' But Gingerich said we know for sure Christ was born earlier because he was born when King Herod was still ruler of Judea and Herod is known to have died before 1 A.D. And so, Christ must have been born a few years earlier than we thought, meaning we've missed the Millennium change entirely.

'So clearly the whole system, if you're thinking there is something mystical about the year 2000, is crazy,' Gingerich said. 'We had a good chance to celebrate and we blew it.' On a more serious note, Gingerich said that the relationship between the Earth and the Moon also means we will miss the Millennium, albeit by a few seconds.

Each year, he said, the Moon moves further away from Earth slowing our spinning planet by about one second annually.

'Almost every Dec. 31, you get that extra second,' he said.

'So for those of you counting down to the Millennium remember to go, five, four, three, two, one. ONE. Don't celebrate a second too early.' But perhaps more than anything, the Millennium gives us a little insight on how life has changed in a thousand years.

For the last Millennium, many panicked that the world was going to end. For this one, people are worried that our computers may come to a grinding halt, Gingerich said.

'Between the Y2K year 2000 bug and the odometer syndrome, obviously the publicity is going to go with Jan. 1, 2000,' Gingerich said. 'So I'm willing to roll with the crowd and suggest why not celebrate twice?'

Bank of Israel head: Budget is top priority

TEL AVIV (R) — Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said Wednesday that the key problem facing the country's economy was parliament's failure to approve the 1999 budget.

"The main economic tool in every modern economy, including Israel, is the budget. What is happening today is a most worrying phenomenon," Frenkel told a news conference marking the release of the central bank's 1998 inflation report.

The government's 215 billion shekel (\$52.7 billion) budget has been locked in parliament since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition collapsed in December. Lawmakers have refused to vote on the package until a variety of new spending and other measures are first approved.

Earlier on Wednesday budget talks in the parliamentary finance committee fell apart, forcing legislators to put off a vote originally set for later in the day to sometime next week.

"It's important that parliament not retreat from the framework already approved by the government," Frenkel said.

He warned that it was not enough that parliament keep to the legally mandated deficit of two per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), but that spending priorities and tax levels be

set to encourage long-term growth.

His remarks were aimed at legislators who have been seeking to insert measures for their constituencies ahead of the general election scheduled for May 17.

Frenkel discounted remarks by Netanyahu to recent weeks that the prime minister planned to raise the government's inflation target from a 4.0 per cent rate for 1999.

"The matter, to the best of my knowledge, is not on the agenda. The government adopted a certain inflation target and that is the target the Bank of Israel will try to achieve," he said.

Frenkel stressed that the Bank of Israel would continue to take a cautionary line aimed at bringing back inflation to the 4 per cent level it had fallen to in the first half of 1998.

On Monday, the bank announced it was keeping its February base lending rate at an annual 13.5 per cent.

The rate was raised by percentage points in November in response to a tumbling shekel and accelerating inflation.

Both the exchange rate and inflation have since stabilised, but Frenkel said he saw no reason yet to ease his monetary stance.

"Real interest rates in Israel today are of course very high, but they must be in light of the challenges

and risks both abroad and at home," he said.

He said inflation was subject to surprise external shocks, which increased the need for a cautious monetary policy. "When we sat here a month ago, no one spoke about Brazil as a problem," he said.

Frenkel said he had not in recent weeks met Netanyahu, who since December has served also as finance minister, but said he did not think the absence of contact was hurting economic policymaking.

"Does this hurt management of monetary policy? The answer is clearly no," Frenkel said, adding that the central problem was passage of the budget in which the central bank had no direct role.

Meanwhile, a top Bank of Israel official said that the Israeli economy could grow 2.2 per cent this year under current conditions.

"An analysis by the research department (of the Bank of Israel) shows that current conditions support

the treasury's forecast of GDP growth of 2.2 per cent, as contained in the national budget," Leo Lederman, head of the central bank's research, was quoted as saying.

Lederman's remarks contrasted with assessments from most private economists, who are expecting considerably lower growth than last year's preliminary 1.9 per cent increase in gross domestic product.

Lederman cautioned, however, that the government's failure to win passage in parliament of the 1999 budget undermined the economy's long-term growth potential because it would delay plans to step up infrastructure spending.

The government now is operating in the framework of the 1998 budget.

Lederman said an unstable world economy made forecasting Israeli economic growth difficult, but he said the sharp depreciation of the Israeli shekel in October could be a bonus for the economy.

"An important condition for realising this forecast is that we operate a policy that enables a large part of the nominal depreciation of the last few months to become a real depreciation," he was quoted as saying.

He said that in that context the central bank was committed to bringing inflation down to the government's 4.0 per cent target for 1999. Inflation last year was 8.6 per cent.

Lederman said Israel's 1998 export performance was not as bad as popularly perceived.

He said the sluggish 5.2 per cent increase in merchandise exports was mainly due to falling sales of polished diamonds.

Excluding diamonds, he noted, industrial exports rose 11.6 per cent last year, similar to the 1992-1995 average.

Lederman noted that the decline in foreign investment came from financial investment while direct investment from overseas held steady.

Iran to seek \$9.5b in foreign investment

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian parliament has allowed the government to seek \$9.5 billion in foreign investment for various projects, mainly in the energy sector, newspapers have reported.

About \$6 billion is earmarked for oil projects during the Iranian year which begins on March 21, they said.

The deals will be conducted largely on a buy-back basis, which allows the government to repay

investors through a share of production.

Iran has put up some 20 oil and gas projects in the Gulf for international tender.

An international consortium led by French firm Total has already been contracted to develop the South Pars gas project in the Gulf.

Other projects up for tender include refineries in the Gulf port of Bandar-Abbas and the Gulf island of Lavan as well as in Shiraz, south of Iran, and a number of oil platforms.

The government has also been allowed to borrow up to \$3.5 billion abroad for petrochemical, dam and sewer construction as well as satellite communication and agricultural projects.

Parliament authorised the government last week to borrow \$300 million to finance the launch of a telecommunications satellite, expected to take place during the next Iranian year.

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Exchange Rates

Wednesday, 27-01-99 ACCESS 4646869

CURRENCY	JORDAN DINAR	SING. DOLLAR	U.S. DOLLAR	BAHRAIN DINAR	QATAR RIAL	EGYPT POUND	SAUDI RIAL	YEMENI RIAL	KUWAIT DINAR	IRANIAN RIAL	PALESTINE
JORDAN DINAR	1.0000	0.1288	0.1927	1.8778	1.8389	0.1945	2.3429	0.2077	0.7800		
SAUDI RIAL	5.2570	1.0000	1.0210	9.9467	9.7405	1.0300	12.4100	1.1002	4.0778	3.6700	
YEMENI RIAL	5.1581	3.9794	1.0000	9.7422	9.5403	1.0088	12.1545	1.0778	3.6700		
BAHRAIN DINAR	0.5285	0.1028	1.0000	0.9793	0.9106	1.0057	1.2741	0.1130	0.3850		
IRANIAN RIAL	0.5438	0.1025	0.1048	1.0212	1.0000	1.0000	12.0483	1.0687	3.8418		
CATAR RIAL	5.1427	0.9709	0.8912	9.8568	9.4957	0.0830	1.0000	0.0887	0.3022		
KUWAIT DINAR	0.4265	0.6505	0.6523	0.7649	0.5362	11.2798	1.0000	3.0067			
EGYPT POUND	6.8145	0.9055	0.9280	9.0407	8.6533	1.0000	12.2105				
LEBANON LIRA	21.4831	4.0557	4.1408	40.3405	39.5044	4.1774	50.3308	4.4621			
U.S. DOLLAR	1.4124	2.2655	2.2722	2.6522	2.5973	2.0746	3.3081	4.2534	1.0000		
GBRITIAN STERLING	2.8541	1.612	1.6145	1.6037	1.5705	1.1661	1.7744	1.7744	1.0000		
GERMANY MARK	2.4003	0.4531	0.4526	4.5072	4.4138	0.4657	5.8234	0.4685	1.0000		
SWITZERLAND FRAN	1.9751	3.3729	3.3807	3.7069	3.6250	0.8750	18.8600	1.8720	5.6889		
FRANCE FRANC	8.0531	1.5197	1.5516	15.1164	14.9031	1.5651	1.5159	1.5159	1.0000		
JAPAN YEN	1.5143	0.3347	0.3111	3.0312	2.9684	0.3189	3.7819	0.3353	1.1428		
HOLLAND GULDEN	2.7245	0.5105	0.5213	5.0784	4.0722	0.5289	6.3361	0.5617	1.3145		
SWEDEN KRONA	10.5228	2.0520	2.1063	20.5116	20.0852	2.1238	25.5897	2.2687	7.7552		
ITALY LIRA	23.7827	4.4863	4.5802	44.3112	43.6983	4.6207	55.8716	4.9336	16.0242		
BELGIUM FRANC	49.5068	9.3461	9.5423	91.0361	9.2688	0.4362	5.2558	0.4685	1.1582		
AUSTRALIA DOLLAR	2.2434	0.4235	0.4224	4.2126	4.1253	0.7675	9.2472	0.8188	2.7045		
EIRO	1.2272	0.2317	0.2385	2.3045	2.2567	0.2386	2.8752	0.2549	0.8896		

CURRENCY	GB. POUND	GERMANY MARK	SWITZERLAND FRAN	FRANCE FRANC	JAPAN YEN	HOLLAND GULDEN	ITALY LIRA	YEMENI RIAL	KUWAIT DINAR	IRANIAN RIAL	PALESTINE
US DOLLAR	1.0000	1.6838	0.5884	0.7151	0.1755	0.8750	0.5222	0.5839	1.1500		
GBRITIAN STERLING</											

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1999

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You're a warrior, of course, but every once in a while you get warm, snugly feelings. That'll be happening more often while the moon's going through Cancer, the water sign that squares Aries. Water signs are emotional, and you may be surprised to find you have an emotional side. And guess what? You may even like it.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You're starting into a pensive phase today that will last into the weekend. The moon's transit through Cancer trines Jupiter in Pisces and Mars in Scorpio. This grand trine in water signs could inspire you to rekindle a bond with some special friends. They're the ones you can talk to without saying words at all. Touch bases tonight.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You've been interested in ideas lately, but now you should get interested in practical matters. It's great to do something you love, but it's even better if you're getting paid for it. Once you get a job like that, work becomes play, and that possibility is out there now. In fact, it's closer than you think.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) You're very lucky today. You're assertive, calm, gorgeous and inspirational — everything you always hoped you'd be. If any other thoughts try to get into your head, just shoo them away. Don't allow them to spoil the pretty picture you're creating for yourself. It's your life, and today you can make it be just as lovely as you want.

LEO: (July 23 to August 22) You could wake up today with a sense of foreboding, as if there's something you promised to do that you've forgotten all about. Actually, odds are high that's actually the case. So today, search your brain and your notepad and the little scraps of paper you've been carrying around in your pocket. Find all the promises you've made, and keep them.

VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) You could have a brilliant insight today, almost as if it was handed to you from on high. If so, it's because you've made yourself available for incoming messages by listening more than you speak. And today, a co-worker will be particularly verbose. Listen, but you may choose to follow your own good sense instead.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You could make a brilliant career move today. The opportunity could come quickly, and you won't have long to act, so pay attention. There's no shortage of money, but the trick is getting it into your pocket. All you have to do is provide what's needed. The hard part is figuring out what that is, and having it there on time. Follow a hunch.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Conditions have shifted; they're now in your favour. A lucky break is predicted, so be watching for it. Love is abundant, and growing. Yourself-confidence should be, too. You may not be in control of the situation, but that's OK. You might even choose to give up control, just for the fun of it. If you do, you'll access real power.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You may be something of a gambler, but today you'd be wise to squelch that urge. Let the house rule in somebody else's loose change. Speaking of houses, you may find a good deal in real estate; get something beautiful for your home. No gamble here. It's simply a good, solid deal. If you find something like that, go for it.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Venus is going into Pisces today, in your solar third house of education, making you even smarter than usual. Venus symbolizes good luck, and so does Jupiter, which is also in Pisces. So your luck should be stupendous. In this case, it has to do with education. Therefore, you should definitely sign up for a class.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) Whatever shenanigans you've been up to for the last few days apparently have not hurt your productivity, because it looks like you're being considered for a promotion or a raise. Or could it be you're in love with the person who dispenses the money? Hm... At any rate, you're lucky, so be bold. Ask for what you want.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) Things have shifted again, and this time you're downright lucky. There's a grand trine in water signs, which makes you even luckier yet. Your intuition is good, and your attitude should be improving. But instead of racing into action, you may choose to sit and wait. Watch, listen and let someone else stick his or her neck out first.

A.F.M TRADE Wednesday, 27-01-99 ACCESS 4646868

Company	Open Price	Close Price	Change
BANKS			
ARAB BK	215.000	213.000	-0.93%
INTL BK	1.520	1.510	-0.66%
BK OF JO	1.250	1.180	-4.80%
INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK	1.530	1.510	-1.31%
THE HOUSING BK	2.840	2.700	-4.53%
JO. KUWAIT BK	1.690	1.660	-2.37%
JO. ISLAMIC BK	1.730	1.680	-2.95%
JO. INVEST&FIN. BK	1.350	1.340	-0.74%
PHILADELPHIA BK	0.580	0.520	-1.89%
BANKS INDEX			
	278.270	point =	-1.48%
SERVICES			
ELECTRIC POWER	1.730	1.660	-4.05%
URBID ELECTRICITY	1.800	1.780	-0.56%
JO. INT'L TRADING CENT	0.270	0.260	-3.70%
AL-RAI	5.690	5.600	-1.58%
AL-ZARDA FOR EDU	0.910	0.900	-1.10%
ARAB INT'L FOR INVEST.	1.950	1.920	-1.54%
UNIFIED LAND TRANS	1.170	1.120	-4.27%
SERVICES INDEX			
	110.300	point =	-1.42%
INDUSTRY			
CEMENT	3.790	3.600	-5.01%
PHOSPHATE	2.160	2.080	-5.09%
ARAB POTASH	3.980	3.780	-5.03%
PETROLEUM REFINERY	11.000	10.590	-3.73%
THE IND. COMML & AGRIC	1.080	1.060	-3.67%
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL	3.120	2.960	-5.13%
CERAMIC IND	1.210	1.170	-3.31%
TOBACCO & CIGARET	1.240	1.200	-3.23%
JO. PIPES	1.080	1.060	-2.75%
DAR AL DAWA	5.500	5.220	-4.91%
MIDDLE EAST COMPLEX	0.560	0.550	-1.79%
JO. STEEL	0.960	0.920	-4.17%
CHLORINE	1.250	1.250	0.00%
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0.410	0.380	-8.88%
PETRO - CHEMICAL	0.330	0.320	-3.03%
CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE	1.040	1.000	-3.85%
TICKWOOL	0.300	0.280	-6.33%
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL	1.060	1.000	-6.76%
INTL CABLE	0.640	0.620	-3.13%
SULPHO - CHEMICALS	0.390	0.370	-5.13%
ARAB CENTER FOR PHAR	1.300	1.250	-3.85%
EL-ZAY	1.280	1.250	-3.10%
UNIVERSAL MODERN IND	0.720	0.680	-5.58%
IND. RESOURCES	0.460	0.440	-4.35%
NEW CAPLES	0.630	0.600	-4.76%
INTL ALUMINUM	0.710	0.700	-1.41%
INDUSTRY INDEX			
	90.230	point =	-4.50%
PARALLEL			
ZEXPORT BK (75)	0.930	0.900	-3.23%
ARAB GERMAN INS	1.000	1.000	0.00%
UNION INVEST. CORP	0.820	0.830	+1.22%
AL - EKBAL	0.820	0.800	-2.44%
ADVANCED PHAR	0.560	0.530	-5.36%
MEDICAL APPLIANCES	0.400	0.400	0.00%
AL DAWLIJAH	0.600	0.580	-3.33%
ARAB INVESTORS	0.900	0.900	0.00%
ARAB INT'L TRADE	0.210	0.210	0.00%
MACHINERY EQUIP	0.470	0.460	-2.65%
OPTICAL & AUDIAL	0.430	0.410	-4.65%
CENTURY	1.260	1.200	-4.76%
NAMCO	0.260	0.240	-8.00%
MIDDLE EAST PHAR (90)	0.640	0.630	+1.56%
UNION TOBACCO	3.340	3.350	+0.30%
AL-RAZI	0.560	0.560	0.00%
INTL CERAMIC	0.410	0.400	-2.44%
GRAND INDEX			
	175.54	point =	-2.27%

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999

There's a grand trine in water signs. The water sign side of yourself might even come out. Water signs are the emotional ones. They also have intuition. Can you see how it might be to the advantage of a warrior to have extrasensory perception? Watch and listen today, and you may be able to tune into a whole new channel.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) There's someone in your life you respect quite a bit. He or she is analytical and scientific, and comes up with more data than you can ever hope to remember. Today, this person has all the facts, but might be missing the point. That's what you have to offer; if you can find a way to communicate it effectively. Try repetition.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This looks like a good day to put a down payment on a cruise, or that scuba class in Tahiti. Put your money where your mouth is, and where your mind has been for some time. You don't have to worry about losing your luggage if you do your travelling from your armchair, but what's the point? That'll never be satisfying. Take the plunge.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) This would be an excellent day to fall in love. You generally like to be pursued, but today you might make an exception to that rule. You might see somebody so deliciously inviting that you can't help but ask for a date. Plan it for tonight, and it could last all the way through tomorrow morning.

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VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) You're supposed to be going to work, but a friend is urging you to take the day off. What a dilemma. A person with fewer scruples would probably play hooky, but, enlightened soul that you are, you recognize the enormous benefits of keeping your commitments. You'll do your job perfectly, then run off and get crazy!

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) There's more work than you

can handle, so you might not think about asking for more. Think again. You're a master at work flow procedures. It's a natural Libra talent. You can spot problem areas and design a way around them. And if you come up with an easier way to do your job, you'll be worth more money. More can be better.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Acknowledgement is a powerful gift. It benefits both receiver and giver. Today, it's your most effective tool. By acknowledging a person who's faithful and true, you'll be bringing out the best in yourself. You could also produce a kind of nuclear reaction. The love you give comes back, but exponentially bigger.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are so many things you're interested in learning right now, it's hard to say no. Don't overdo it. You can only read so many books at one time, you know. Besides, the libraries are full of them. Think of ways to economise before you put yourself in the poorhouse trying to learn how to get rich.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Romance, or at least good friendship, looks quite likely now, with a neighbour or a friend of a sibling. Open yourself up to the possibility. If you have a true love, the two of you ought to go hang out with other people you both love. Love is obviously the dominant theme here. It'll be hard to avoid it, so why even try?

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) A co-worker says one thing and does another. What's going on? That's the question. The answer, again, is to follow the money. You may be tired of hearing about money by now. You're more interested in loftier pursuits. But it does help to keep body and soul together, and its no sin to live well. Today, take care of yourself.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) You're drawing attention from a very attractive person. You're warm, compassionate, sensitive, thoughtful and generous, and so is the person eyeing you. Is this a match made in heaven? Only time will tell. The only adverse condition is a conflict between love and money. Don't trade one for the other by goofing off and getting fired.

Money flows to emerging markets set to fall further in 1999 — IIF

LONDON (AFP) — The

year.

"The unilateral Russian default and devaluation in August had a sharply negative impact on confidence and flows across the markets in 1999, a coalition of leading world bankers said Wednesday.

Net private capital flows to emerging markets are expected to fall to \$140 billion (120 billion euros), lower than the total for the 1998 crisis year of \$150 billion and well below the \$260 billion seen in 1997.

Foreign banks lost a total of \$60 billion in emerging markets last year, according to the IIF.

The grouping of private banks warned that emerging markets faced a severe credit crunch, as private bank lending was expected to fall to just \$5 billion this year from \$200 billion in 1999.

However, flows to the economy of the troubled Asian region were expected to double this year to a modest \$33 billion, as outflows from the crisis countries of Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand and the Philippines slow.

The IIF predicted that those countries would see a rise in foreign investment in stock markets to \$18.7 billion last

year. "The unilateral Russian default and devaluation in August had a sharply negative impact on confidence and flows across the markets in 1999, a coalition of leading world bankers said Wednesday.

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Kafelnikov optimistic of second grand slam win

MELBOURNE (R) — Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov was brimming with confidence about his chance of winning his second grand slam title after beating Todd Martin 6-2 7-6 6-2 to reach the Australian Open semifinals on Wednesday.

Tenth-seeded Kafelnikov was the only seeded player to reach the last four after early round defeats and injury had robbed the tournament of most of its star players by the fourth round.

"There could not be a better opportunity for me to win another grand slam," said Kafelnikov, winner of the 1996 French Open.

"I am also the only player to win a slam before, so maybe the experience is going to help me," he said.

Kafelnikov said the decision by world number one Pete Sampras not to come to Australia because of fatigue also became more significant the longer the tournament went on.

"Once the best player in the world was not competing, it really opened up the field for everybody," World No. 10 Kafelnikov said.

The tall Russian will meet Tommy Haas in a semifinal on Friday. Haas earlier downed American giant-killer Vincent Spadea 7-6 7-5 6-3 to record his best grand slam performance.

"It will be interesting against Haas, but I wouldn't want to say I'm going to win definitely," Kafelnikov.

The other semifinal, a day earlier on Thursday, will see two unseeded players meet when inform Swede Thomas Enqvist takes on unsung Ecuadorian Nicolas Lapentti.

Haas managed to make it through his half of the draw without meeting a seeded player, with fourth seed Carlos Moya beaten in the first round and top seed Marcelo Rios retiring with a back injury without hitting a



Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia watches his backhand return head back over the net to Todd Martin of the USA during their quarterfinals match at the 1999 Australian Open in Melbourne on Wednesday. Kafelnikov won the first set 6-2 and action continues on centre court (AFP photo)

ball.

Spadea then disposed of the remaining big threat in that half of the draw when he upset fifth seed and strong favourite Andre Agassi in the fourth round.

Kafelnikov was hoping to reverse a trend that has seen him beaten by the eventual champion each of the previous three times he has played in Melbourne — Pete Sampras in 1994, Agassi in 1995 and Boris Becker in 1996.

Kafelnikov's win also snapped a 14-match winning streak for Martin which stretched back to the Stockholm Open in November.

Martin entered the tournament buoyed by winning a warm-up

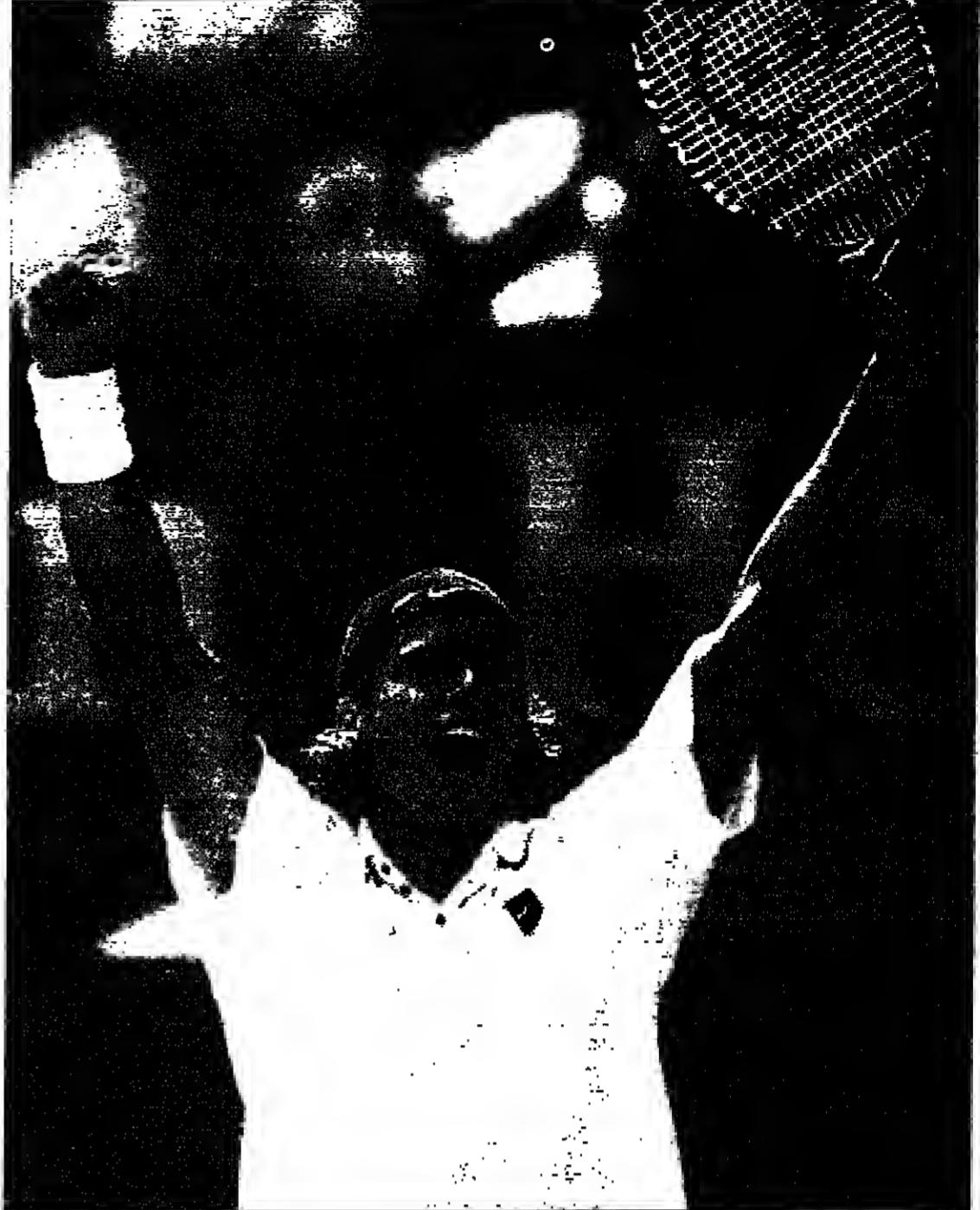
event in Sydney and then survived two tough five-setters in Melbourne, including one over 1998 champion Petr Korda in the third round.

"I'm in need of a little rest," Martin said. "The last couple of weeks have been busy, but it's been a lot of fun."

Martin wilted against Kafelnikov, who mixed a cunning blend of cross-court shots, lobs and a strong service game.

The American, who is close to re-entering the top 10, said the amount of tennis he had played had resulted in him irritating an old stomach muscle injury.

"Had I played to my potential today, I think I could have won."



Tommy Haas of Germany jubilates after defeating Vincent Spadea of the U.S. in the quarterfinals of the 1999 Australian Open in Melbourne on Wednesday. Haas advanced to the semifinals with a 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 win (AFP photo)

Seles puts Graf era into history books

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Monica Seles kept her remarkable unbeaten Australian Open record intact as she swept into the semifinals here Wednesday and then confined Steffi Graf to the history books.

Seles won nine of the last 10 games to knock out Graf and now plays defending champion Martina Hingis in Thursday's semifinals.

Hingis outplayed French seventh seed Mary Pierce, 6-3, 6-4.

Tommy Haas, attempting to become the first unseeded player to win a Grand Slam tournament since Boris Becker's 1985 Wimbledon triumph, disposed of American Vince Spadea in straight sets.

The 20-year-old German now plays Yevgeny Kafelnikov for a place in Sunday's final.

The Russian 10th seed and 1996 French Open champion blasted his way past American 15th seed Todd Martin 6-2, 7-6 (7/1), 6-2.

The 24-year-old Russian said he would never have a better chance to win another Grand Slam.

"It is difficult to realize that none of the seeded players are left in the tournament and I am the only one to have won a Grand Slam, so that will help me definitely," said Kafelnikov.

"Three times here before I have been beaten by the eventual champion. Pete Sampras in 1994, Andre Agassi in '95 and Boris Becker in '96."

The 29-year-old Graf, winner of 21 Grand Slam singles titles, began like an express train but was quickly derailed.

From serving for the first set at 5-4 she crashed out 5-7, 1-6. Only her pride stood in the way of only a third love-set in the last 15 years.

And afterwards Seles was damning in her assessment.



Monica Seles of the U.S. returns to Steffi Graf of Germany during their quarterfinals match at the 1999 Australian Open in Melbourne on Wednesday. Seles defeated Graf 7-5, 6-1 (AFP photo)

change it around. I told myself to loosen up. I usually can but today I didn't find a way to.

"At 5-4 I was dictating the points and I thought I was playing fine," said the 10th seed Graf, whose sliced backhand was destroyed by Seles.

"I didn't really go into this tournament for some reason with enough confidence. I don't know why that was."

Graf still holds a 9-5 lead over Seles in head-to-head meetings and the previous time they met — at the Chase Championships in New York last November — Graf fought back from a first set loss to win 1-6, 6-4, 6-4.

Wednesday's win was Seles' first over Graf since she beat her in the 1993 Australian Open final.

Seles won on her debut here in 1991 then won the title in 1992 and 1993 before missing the 1994 and 1995 championships while she was recovering after being stabbed by a Graf fan in a tournament in Hamburg.

Hingis, who has beaten her in six of their eight matches, including two of three at Grand Slam level, said after beating Mary Pierce she was eager to have a crack at Seles, who extended her unbeaten record in Australia to 33 matches.

Hingis, the No. 2 seed, took just 76 minutes to beat Pierce, the 1995 champion who went down to her third successive defeat to Hingis at Melbourne Park.

Hingis and Pierce have now won five matches each but as Pierce's first three wins came when the Swiss was only 14-year-old.

"I was attacking her serve very well and had some great returns on the court to try to create a sharper angle for her shots.

"She was standing so far off



Steffi Graf of Germany returns to Monica Seles of the U.S. during their quarterfinals match at the 1999 Australian Open in Melbourne on Wednesday. Seles defeated Graf 7-5, 6-1 (AFP photo)

the middle I had open lines and I went for them."

Pierce said she decided to stand wide on the court to try to create a sharper angle for her shots.

"She was standing so far off

the middle I had open lines and I went for them."

Pierce said she decided to

stand wide on the court to try to

create a sharper angle for her

shots.

"To beat her you have to be

at the top of your game 100 per

cent, which I wasn't," Pierce

said. "But I've got to give

Martina credit. She hit some

amazing shots."

TODAY AT

CINEMA TEL: 463-4144
PHILADELPHIA '1'
Bruce Willis .. in

MERCURY RISING
Shows: 10:30, 8:30, 6:15, 3:30, 12:30

CINEMA TEL: 463-4144
PHILADELPHIA '2'
Adel Imam, Wafa' Amer & Kamal Shinawi .. in

ALWAD MAHROUS TBA' AL WAZIR
Shows: 10:30, 8:30, 6:15, 3:30, 12:30

CINEMA TEL: 5699238
PLAZA
Comedian Mohammad Huneidi .. in

SAEEDI AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY
Shows: 10:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 5677420
CONCORDE
Adel Imam, Wafa' Amer & Kamal Shinawi .. in

ALWAD MAHROUS TBA' AL WAZIR
Shows: 12:30, 2:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL: 4934793
GALLERIA 1
www.cns.com.jo/Galleria
Mel Gibson .. in

LETHAL WEAPON 4
Shows: 3:00, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45

CINEMA TEL: 5934793
GALLERIA 2
www.cns.com.jo/Galleria
One of Walt Disney's best movies

MULAN
Shows: 3:00, 5:00, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Hisham Yanis Theatre
TEL: 4625155
SOON...

ILHAQ YA TARAWNEH
Hisham Yanis & Amal Al Dabbas

Listings for films and showing times as received by cinemas and their advertising agencies.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1999

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You're a warrior, of course, but every once in a while you get warm, mushy feelings. That'll be happening more often while the moon's going through Cancer, the water sign that squares Aries. Water signs are emotional, and you may be surprised to find you have an emotional side. And guess what? You may even like it.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You're starting into a passive phase today, which will last into the weekend. The moon's transit through Cancer squares Jupiter in Pisces and Mars in Scorpio. This grand trine in water signs could inspire you to rekindle a bond with some special friends. They're the ones you can talk to without saying words at all. Touch bases tonight.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You've been interested in ideas lately, but now you should get interested in practical matters. It's great to do something you love, but it's even better if you're getting paid for it. Once you get a job like that, work becomes play, and that possibility is out there now. In fact, it's closer than you think.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) You're very lucky today. You're assertive, calm, gorgeous and inspirational — everything you always hoped you'd be. If any other thoughts try to get into your head, just shoo them away. Don't allow them to spoil the pretty picture you're creating for yourself. It's your life, and today you can make it be just as lovely as you want.

LEO: (July 23 to August 22) You could wake up today with a sense of foreboding, as if there's something you promised to do that you've forgotten all about. Actually, odds are high that's actually the case. So today, search your brain and your notepad and the little scraps of paper you've been carrying around in your pocket. Find all the promises you've made, and keep them.

VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) You could have a brilliant insight today, almost as if it was handed to you from on high. If so, it's because you've made yourself available for incoming messages by listening more than you speak. And today, a co-worker will be particularly verbose. Listen, but you may choose to follow your own good sense instead.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You could make a brilliant career move today. The opportunity could come quickly, and you won't have long to act, so pay attention. There's no shortage of money, but the trick is getting it into your pocket. All you have to do is provide what's needed. The hard part is figuring out what that is, and having it there on time. Follow a hunch.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Conditions have shifted; they're now in your favour. A lucky break is predicted, so be watching for it. Love is abundant, and growing. Yourself-confidence should be, too. You may not be in control of the situation, but that's OK. You might even choose to give up control, just for the fun of it. If you do, you'll score real power.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You may be something of a gambler, but today you'd be wise to squelch that urge. The house rule in somebody else's loose change. Speaking of houses, you may find a good deal in real estate or get something beautiful for your home. No gamble here; it's simply a good, solid deal. If you find something like that, go for it.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Venus is going into Pisces today, in your solar third house of education, making you even smarter than usual. Venus symbolises good luck, and so does Jupiter, which is also in Pisces. So your luck should be stupendous. In this case, it has to do with education. Therefore, you should definitely sign up for a class.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) Whatever shenanigans you've been up to for the last few days apparently have not hurt your productivity, because it looks like you're being considered for a promotion or a raise. Or could it be you're in love with the person who dispenses the money? Hmm... At any rate, you're lucky, so be bold. Ask for what you want.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) Things have shifted again, and this time you're downright lucky. There's a grand trine in water signs, which makes you even luckier yet. Your intuition is good, and your attitude should be improving. But instead of racing into action, you may choose to sit and wait. Watch, listen and let someone else stick his or her neck out first.

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A.F.M TRADE Wednesday, 27-01-99

ACCESS 4646868

Company	Open	Close	Change
BANKS			
ARAB BK	215.000	213.000	- 0.93%
INT'L BK	1.520	1.510	- 0.66%
LSK. OF JO	1.250	1.190	- 4.80%
MO. IND. TRADING DEV. BK	1.580	1.510	- 3.17%
THE HOUSING BK	2.940	2.700	- 4.93%
U.O. KUWAITI BK	1.680	1.680	- 2.37%
U.O. ISLAMIC BK	1.730	1.680	- 2.89%
U.O. INVEST. EKIN. BK	1.360	1.340	- 0.74%
PHILADELPHIA BK	0.550	0.520	- 1.89%
BANKS INDEX			
	278.270	point =	- 1.48%
SERVICES			
ELECTRIC POWER	1.730	1.660	- 4.05%
SEBID ELECTRICITY	1.350	1.290	- 0.56%
U.O. INT'L TRADING CENT	0.270	0.260	- 3.70%
AL-RAFI	5.590	5.500	- 1.58%
AL-ZAYRA FOR EDU.	0.910	0.900	- 1.0%
ARAB INT'L FOR MACHES	1.950	1.920	- 1.54%
UNIFIED LAND TRANS.	1.170	1.120	- 1.27%
SERVICES INDEX			
	110.300	point =	- 1.42%
INDUSTRY			
CEMENT	3.790	3.600	- 5.01%
PHOSPHATE	2.160	2.050	- 5.09%
ARAB POTASH	3.980	3.780	- 5.03%
PETROLEUM REFINERY	11.000	10.550	- 3.73%
THE IND. COMM. & AGRIC.	1.090	1.050	- 3.57%
ARAB PHARMA. & HARMACEUTICAL	3.120	2.950	- 5.13%
CERAMIC IND.	1.210	1.170	- 3.31%
TOBACCO & CIGARET	1.240	1.200	- 3.23%
JO. PIPES	1.090	1.060	- 2.75%
DAR AL DAWA	5.800	5.230	- 4.91%
MIDDLE EAST COMPLEX	0.550	0.550	- 1.79%
JO. STEEL	0.950	0.920	- 4.17%
CHLORINE	1.250	1.250	0.00%
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	0.410	0.390	- 4.88%
PETRO. & IRONICAL	0.350	0.320	- 3.03%
CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE	1.040	1.000	- 3.85%
ROCKWOOL	0.300	0.290	- 3.33%
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AMIDOLE EAST PHAR (90)	0.640	0.630	- 1.56%
UNION TOBACCO	2.340	2.350	+ 0.30%
AL-RAZI	0.660	0.560	- 16.00%
INT'L CERAMIC	0.410	0.400	- 2.44%
GRAND INDEX			
	175.54	point =	- 2.27%

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1999

can handle, so you might not think about asking for more. Think again. You're a master at work flow procedures. It's a natural Libra talent. You can spot problem areas and design a way

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SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) There are so many things you're interested in learning right now, it's hard to say no. Don't overdo it. You can only read so many books at one time, you know. Besides, the libraries are full of them. Think of ways to economise before you put yourself in the poorhouse trying to learn how to get rich.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Romance, or at least good friendship, looks quite likely now, with a neighbour or a friend of a sibling. Open yourself up to the possibility. If you have a true love, the two of you ought to go hang out with other people you both love. Love is obviously the dominant theme here, it'll be hard to avoid it, so why even try?

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) A co-worker says one thing and does another. What's going on? That's the question. The answer, again, is to follow the money. You may be tired of hearing about money by now. You're more interested in lottery pursuits. But it does help to keep body and soul together, and it's no sin to live well. Today, take care of yourself.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) You're drawing attention from a very attractive person. You're warm, compassionate, sensitive, thoughtful and generous, and so is the person eyeing you. Is this a match made in heaven? Only time will tell. The only adverse condition is a conflict between love and money. Don't trade one for the other by going off and getting fired.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) This looks like a good day to put a

Money flows to emerging markets set to fall further in 1999 — IIF

LONDON (AFP) —

The caution resulting from crushing losses in Asia and Russia will continue to sap the flow of private money into emerging markets in 1999, a coalition of leading world bankers said Wednesday.

Net private capital flows to emerging markets are expected to fall to \$140 billion (120 billion euros), lower than the total for the 1998 crisis year of \$150 billion and well below the \$260 billion seen in 1997, the Institute of International Finance (IIF) said.

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God Bless You

ARAB BANK



البنك العربي

prosecutor
at Kurdish

planned in
new village

Sicilian police arrest Mafia boss

U.S. warns citizens on travel to Yem

Gore warns Primakov over

Court in Basque country